Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Next 'Arafat-Peres Meeting Seen as 'Last Chance'

TA0407162495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Israeli Intransigence — the Main Obstacle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the intensive talks that continued until dawn yesterday between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, it became apparent again that the main obstacle which prevented them from reaching agreement on arrangements for implementing the second stage of the Oslo accord was not insufficient channels of contact between the two parties, lack of time, or the pressure of dates, but basically Israeli intransigence and Israel's attempts to impose positions and arrangements that are inconsistent with the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. Those positions and arrangements will reinforce Israeli occupation and control as well as settlement in vast areas of the West Bank by fragmenting the unity of the occupied Palestinian territories, separating solutions, and creating various facts and regimes in each of the many areas that Israel has delineated in the West Bank.

During the long Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the second stage, which reached their decisive phase in the meeting between President 'Arafat and Peres, it became certain that Israel's insistence on maintaining the settlements in the West Bank and its aspiration to annex parts of this area constitute the basis of the Israeli approach to impose and dictate security arrangements that will give Israel full control over vast areas and allow it to dominate the main communications axes and redraw the map of roads and communications, with the resultant large-scale confiscation of Palestinian lands under the pretext of constructing "bypass roads." This Israeli concept destroys one of the DOP's most important bases, which calls for the geographic and territorial unity of the Palestinian territories. Furthermore, it destroys the credibility of intentions with regard to the interim stage, the main purpose of which is to pave the way for ending the occupation and allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights.

If we add to all this the immense investment and budget that no previous Israeli Government had allocated and which the current Israeli Government has approved under the slogan of covering the redeployment expenditures, which in fact cover the expenses of enhancing settlement activity in various parts of the West Bank, it becomes absolutely certain that the existing basic flaw stems from Israel's position. It is a position that blocks the way to reaching an agreement, especially since what Israel has imposed by the force of occupation cannot be accepted by the Palestinian side under the slogan of making peace.

From this premise, if today's expected meeting between President 'Arafat and Peres represents the last chance for emerging from the circle of procrastination, foot-dragging, and the possibilities of retreat and the last chance for Israel to prove the credibility of its intentions and desire to make peace, what is required today is not a statement about new dates for talks and consultations. Rather, it is an Israeli political decision on the level of the required boldness of making peace and an acknowledgment that the West Bank is occupied Palestinian territory and that ending this occupation is the natural and basic condition that contributes to making this peace, with the resulting admission that settlement activity is illegal and that it is impossible to divide the Palestinian territories and keep them as booty to be dominated and annexed. Only in this way can one emerge from the circle of deadlock and avoid the dangers of retreat and begin to actually build the road toward peace.

'Arafat Rejects 'Piecemeal Deals' on Prisoners

JN2906191495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed his rejection of piecemeal deals for releasing prisoners in Israeli jails. In an address this evening to a popular rally at the Shaykh Muhammad 'Awwad Hall in the al-Azhar University organized by Fatah in solidarity with prisoners, 'Arafat added that the prisoners issue is as sacred as our land and that there is no way that we can bargain over it. More details in the following recorded report by our correspondent in Gaza, 'Adil al-Za'nun:

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] President Yasir 'arafat has said that there will be no bargains or yielding regarding the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli occupation prisons until everyone of them is released. During a rally in solidarity with Palestinian and Arab prisoners organized by the Fatah Movement in the Shaykh 'Awwad Hall in the al-Azhar University in Gaza this evening, President 'Arafat added that our cause and land are sacred. He said our prisoners' issue is as sacred as our land and cause. President 'Arafat said whether they like it or not, Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. He said nobody among us is ready to relinquish an iota of the soil of Jerusalem.

He said that the Israeli Government is using the prisoners as hostages, but said the prisoners are far more than that. The president indicated that 2,200 prisoners should have been released eight months ago and that releasing the prisoners is part of the agreement. President 'Arafat

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said that it is a constant pledge that we will not forget our heroic prisoners.

In his address, which he made in front of thousands of citizens, President 'Arafat touched on the Israeli radio's reports on the ministerial committee's decision to release several hundred prisoners if the Palestinian side approves Israeli conditions. He said nobody approves their conditions. President 'Arafat added that the Palestinian and Arab prisoners' issue is the issue of the Palestine question. He stressed that thanks to our independent Palestinian decisionmaking, we will enter Jerusalem so that a Palestinian child will raise the Palestinian flag over the walls, minarets, and churches of holy Jerusalem.

The audience frequently interrupted President 'Arafat's address with nationalist chants glorifying Palestinian prisoners. Presidency Secretary al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and a number of personalities and leaders attended the rally. [end recording]

Prisoners End Hunger Strike, Expect Release

TA0107163795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security prisoners in the Nabulus, Hebron, and Janin jails today joined the 400 prisoners at Junayd Prison, the main detention facility in Judaea and Samaria, in ending their hunger strike.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky quotes Israeli sources as saying they believe that the reason for stopping the hunger strike is the receipt of a message from the Palestinian leadership that they will be freed soon.

Prisoners Resume Hunger Strike

TA0207094295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian prisoners are resuming their hunger strike today after a 24-hour break. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that six Israeli prisoners jailed for harming Arabs also launched a hunger strike this morning, claiming they were not interested in being freed in order to justify the release of Palestinian prisoners.

A group of Israeli women demonstrated this morning opposite Hasharon Prison in a demand to release 30 Palestinian female prisoners, including five mothers, one of whom is nursing a baby. This was reported by our correspondent Yafa Glick.

Thwarted Hit on Mubarak May Have Saved 'Arafat

MM0307142095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Prominent Arab Official Raises Questions About Addis Ababa Incident: "Were There Two Assassination Attempts, One on Mubarak and the Other on 'Arafat?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources have quoted a prominent Arab official as saying that there was a big riddle surrounding the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and that the current investigations would in the next few days unravel the mystery and implications which, if confirmed, would result in numerous interactions and in the opening of many new files. The sources say that the prominent Arab official, who was in Addis Ababa when the failed and condemned attempt was made, raised some questions about the significance of the fact that the culprits who carried out the assassination attempt rented a building adjacent to the Palestinian Embassy in the Ethiopian capital and the fact that Palestinian Ambassador in Addis Ababa Yusuf Rajab was at the scene of the operation at the same moment and was actually injured.

The sources also quote the prominent Arab official as saying that, in his view, there were two simultaneous assassination attempts — one, currently the center of attention, targeting President Mubarak, and the other targeting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and that the two operations interacted in an uncalculated way, resulting in the partial failure of the first and the complete failure of the second. The senior Arab official believes that there was no link in terms of planning or execution between the two attempts and that the party which plotted the attempt on President Mubarak was not the same party which plotted the attempt on Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat). The confusion which occurred was due to the fact that the same party was not responsible for both attempts.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources say that the prominent official focused on the following points as being evidence of that view:

1. The schedule of the Palestinian president's activities in the Ethiopian capital included a visit to the Palestinian mission there in addition to his participation in the African summit.

2. Those who carried out the assassination attempt on Mubarak could have rented a house away from the Palestinian Embassy, which was taking precautions because of Palestinian developments.

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3. Those who were in the car which rammed Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's car did not clash with the Egyptian guards, who opened fire immediately. It is believed that their orders were to attack a target other than that which other culprits attacked at same moment.

4. Kalashnikovs, handgrenades, and RPG missiles were discovered in the house adjacent to the Palestinian Embassy said to have been rented by those who carried out the attempt on President Mubarak.

Logically, there should have been no stored weapons, least of all RPG's. These weapons should have all been the possession of the attackers when the assassination attempt was carried out. The attackers were supposed to be preparing to escape after carrying out their mission.

5. Immediately after the assassination attempt, the Ethiopian security authorities deployed additional guards around the Palestinian president and moved his residence to the former imperial palace, which is heavily guarded, whereas the other chief delegates were taken to the presidential palace.

At any rate, these were observations made by a prominent Arab official whom AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources preferred not to name. The investigations are still in the preliminary stages and the main strings have not been found yet. That means that the coming days could bring new revelations, particularly as the African summit was attended by more than one leader targeted by extremist movements.

Leading Hamas Leader Freed by Police

TA0407062795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Police have released Majid 'Ali, a leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist in the Gaza Strip. He was arrested a week ago after the suicide bombing attack at Neve Deqalim. Three Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded in that attack.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that while under detention the Palestinian Police shaved Majid 'Ali's beard and hair. Two other Hamas leaders detained last week received similar treatment.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Announce 'Understanding' Reached

AFP on 'Text' of 'Understanding'

NC0407190595 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 4 (AFP) — The full text of the Israel-PLO "understanding" read out Tuesday [4 July] in English by Palestinian Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

"'Arafat and Peres announced today that after months of public and discreet negotiations and meetings between Rabin and 'Arafat an understanding has been reached on main aspects of the interim agremeent — free and democratic elections for the Palestinian Council and redeployment of the Israeli military forces in the West Bank and the transfer of civilian authority.

"Both sides agreed that the interim agreeement would be fully based on the (1993) Declaration of Principles (for autonomy).

"Israel, on the eve of the elections, will redeploy from populated areas on the West Bank, elections will be held for the establishment of the Palestinian Council.

"The two sides have agreed that the interim agreement will enable Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace and security.

"'Arafat and Peres instructed their delegations, headed by (PLO Economy Minister Ahmad Quray') Abu-'Ala' and (Israeli Foreign Ministry director-general) Uri Savir, to enter into intense negotiations in order to finalize the interim agreement by July 25.

"Mr. 'Arafat and Mr. Peres covered among other issues the release of Palestinian prisoners held and detained in Israeli jails. It was agreed that the prisoners' gradual release will be arranged under the auspices of the joint ministerial committee formed for this purpose and will be included in the interim agreement.

"Both sides reaffirmed their desire to achieve a just lasting and comprehensive peaceful settlement and that the interim agreement is an integral part of the whole peace process".

Peres Comments on Agreement

TA0407175295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Studio talk between anchorman Hayim Yavin and correspondent Shlomi Eldar in the Gaza Strip — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We start with the agreement reached this evening between Foreign Minister Shim'on

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Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The two men agreed that the interim agreement on the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be signed within three weeks. Good evening to our correspondent Shlomi Eldar.

[Eldar] Good evening.

[Yavin] Before speaking to you, let us watch the video report you sent us several minutes ago, which shows the conclusion of the meeting between Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat. Here they are stepping out to the waiting media correspondents and we will immediately hear what Shim'on Peres had to say.

[Begin recording] [Eldar] How did the meeting end?

[Peres] We agreed on most, but not all, of the issues. We reached verbal agreement on some of the points while other understandings were put in writing. Had we attempted to put everything into writing it would have taken many more days and nights. This will be carried out by the two delegations, which are respectively headed by Mr. Uri Savir and Mr. Abu-'Ala'. They will start work immediately in order to put everything into writing in an orderly manner.

[Eldar] In other words, could one say that we are very close to an agreement?

[Peres] We are pretty close to reaching an agreement.

[Eldar] When will you conclude the agreement?

[Peres] We have set ourselves a target date for finalizing everything in writing by 25 July.

[Eldar] Did the Palestinians accept the demand for Israeli control over the villages?

[Peres] I do not want to get into details. However, we did not back down with regard to our security demands. We insisted on them and they were accepted.

[Eldar] So it will be possible to sign the agreement by 25 July?

[Peres] I hope so.

[Eldar] And when will the IDF begin its withdrawal in the West Bank?

[Peres] After everything is put into writing and we set the dates for beginning the withdrawal and redeployment.

[Eldar] So no date has been set yet?

[Peres] There is no specific date as yet. [end recording]

[Yavin] Shlomi, do we know what was agreed upon and what the remaining disagreements are?

[Eldar] As Mr. Peres noted in the interview earlier, Israel has not made any concessions on security. To the best of our knowledge, the main problem was securing the IDF's control of the areas outside the West Bank towns. That was the main issue in contention on 1 July as well as today. The Palestinians almost refused to hear that the IDF would give them no hold outside of the West Bank towns. Apparently, what was agreed upon, and I must qualify this because we received this information partly from Palestinian elements close to the negotiations with 'Arafat. [sentence as heard] I have not verified this information with Israeli sources who participated in the talks. Israel has apparently agreed to let the Palestinians participate in joint patrols but not along the same lines as the patrols in the Gaza Strip but rather within the framework of allotted timeframes. This seems to be the formula agreed upon. The Israeli proposal, and I am once again stressing that this information which we heard from Palestinian sources is only probably correct and has not been verified by Israeli officials, is that Israel will withdraw within one year from all the towns in the West Bank, with the exception of Hebron. The Palestinians are therefore prepared to let Israel control the roads, the peripheral areas, and the villages. Shim'on Peres today said that there were 55 villages in addition to the West Bank towns.

[Yavin] So there is some sort of Israeli concession here. We have agreed to operate joint patrols from time to time.

[Eldar] Yes, there are concessions on the part of both Palestinians and Israelis. As we heard Peres state earlier, and this statement is worth repeating: We have not compromised on any of our security demands. This is the most powerful demand Israel made. As for the other details, as Mr. Peres explained before, they will be finalized by committees. The parties can still run aground on a series of issues. It may therefore be advisable to say that I am not certain that the agreement will indeed be signed by 25 July.

[Yavin] Thank you, Shlomi Eldar.

Peres on 25 Jul Deadline for Agreement

TA0507072495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Is 25 July the final date or should we expect more delays? In other words, did you decide to sign the agreement on 25 July?

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[Peres] That is the intention. Look, having no set date is like not having a fence, everything looks wide open. I think that even though we went past the target dates by a few days here and there, the benefit of setting a target date far outdoes the harm caused by a delay of two or three weeks.

[Ronen] In other words, you are not impressed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's remarks that many obstacles and issues, mainly pertaining to security, remain to be settled.

[Peres] Of course many issues remain to be settled. In Oslo, too, not everything was concluded all at once. We finalized the fundamental issues, but it goes without saying that there are still quite a few problems. I have no intention of playing down either their number or the difficulties we still will have to surmount.

[Ronen] So, there is still a chance that the agreement will not be signed by 25 July.

[Peres] Why should you hope for that?

[Ronen] I am not hoping, I am just raising a possibility.

[Peres] There is a chance that we will sign an agreement by 25 July, and that is the intention.

[Ronen] Is 25 July a sacred date, as the prime minister would say?

[Peres] Look, only God creates sacred things. We humans suffice with less impressive creations.

[Ronen] In spite of everything, would you say that the final and last phase of Israel's departure from the West Bank started last night, as several newspapers say this morning?

[Peres] I would say our departure from Arab locations, since we are staying in Judaea and Samaria, and Jordan remains our security border. Do not forget that we are not talking about sovereignty but about autonomy. In other words, just as we did not annex territory we are not ceding it either. Formally speaking, the status of the territories remains unchanged since the Camp David Accords. Nevertheless, I hear the right wing is saying that we made concessions. Indeed, we ceded that which was not ours to begin with. Did the Likud own Nabulus? Did Israel own Nabulus in all possible respects? Do Israelis need to be in Nabulus to crack down demonstrations or run its affairs? What for? The agreement was not created by us but by the situation in the field, which we have now agreed to administer without endangering our lives or trying to impose ourselves on others.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, what do you say to the settlers who claim that they will not agree to driving in the West Bank while escorted by Palestinian Authority policemen? If they do that, it could spell a real war in Judaea and Samaria.

[Peres] I am a slightly more practical person. A few weeks ago I drove from the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. We passed Jericho where, as you know, there is a bypass road. I was the only one driving on that road. Everybody else, all the settlers, went through Jericho and absolutely nothing happened. As you know, there is a synagogue in Jericho, and worshipers get to it without any problems. You cannot spend your life spreading panic and fear. They said katyusha rockets would be fired from Gaza to Ashqelon. They are constantly sowing fear and intimidation. What I can say to those settlers is: Fear not, O Jacob my servant.

[Ronen] Which is what the late Moshe Dayan once said in different circumstances.

[Peres] That is correct.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and have a nice day.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Security Still a Problem

NC0407171895 Paris AFP in English
1645 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 4 (AFP) — Israel and the PLO struck an "understanding" Tuesday [4 July] on the outline of the second phase of autonomy for the West Bank, PLO information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh announced.

"An understanding has been reached on main aspects of the interim agreement," 'Abd-Rabbuh told reporters.

The two sides intend to sign on July 25 a full agreement to implement the second phase, he said.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made the deal in nearly three hours of talks in Gaza City.

The next phase of autonomy — redeployment outside Palestinian areas and autonomy elections — is already a year behind the timetable outlined in the 1993 Declaration of Principles for self-rule.

'Arafat and Peres had failed in more than eight hours of talks overnight Saturday to hammer out a deal, thereby missing a July 1 deadline.

'Abd-Rabbuh later told journalists security remained the main problem.

"We cannot say we have reached an agreement on security concepts, particularly not in rural areas," he said.

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"We insist that redeployment takes place in all towns and all areas, including Hebron. I insist on Hebron as a town and a region because there are rumours that Hebron will be excluded.

"We do not want Palestinian localities to be isolated enclaves, which would make life even more difficult for people."

He said it was impossible to hold elections unless the Palestinian police was in charge of security, "at least in populated areas of the West Bank."

"I cannot say there has been a great change in the Israeli attitude, but there is still room for negotiation," he added.

Kanafani Views Agreement

JN0407193095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Joint press statement issued following the meeting Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres "this evening"; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today stated that following several months of secret and public negotiations and meetings between Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres one the one hand, and President 'Arafat on the other, an understanding was reached on principal points in the transitional agreement: Free, democratic elections for the Palestinian Council and the president, Israeli troops redeployment in the West Bank, and the transfer of all civilian powers.

The two sides agreed that the transitional agreement will be entirely based on the Declaration of Principles and that Israel will complete its troops redeployment to outside the populated areas in the West Bank on the eve of the elections.

The two sides agreed that the transitional agreement will enable the Palestinians and the Israelis to live in peace and security.

President 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres gave instructions to their delegations, headed by Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and Uri Savir, to enter into intensive negotiations to complete the transitional agreement on 25 July.

'Arafat and Peres discussed, among other things, the release of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. The two sides agreed that the arrangements for a gradual release of the prisoners will be made under the canopy of the ministerial committee set up for this purpose. These arrangements will be part of the transitional agreement.

The two sides underlined their desire to arrive at a just, comprehensive, lasting peace and a historic reconciliation and that the transitional agreement is an indivisible part of the peace process.

Marwan Kanafani, an adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, commented on the statement by saying:

[Begin recording] [Kanafani] This meeting resulted in a joint statement issued by the two parties. This statement will be broadcast by your radio during this newscast. The statement specifies the dimensions of, and the points covered by the agreement. These include the redeployment, the elections, the transfer of powers, and the prisoners, which President Yasir 'Arafat insisted on including in the agreement as a basic element, the importance of which everybody knows.

This does not mean we have reached an agreement. Nor does it mean that all issues are settled. It means that now we have terms of reference on the basis of which the agreement can be implemented. These terms of reference are, of course, the Declaration of Principles and the points stipulated in this agreement.

We still have [pauses] Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian delegation, still has ahead of him difficult and long negotiations, which require a lot of patience, flexibility, and adherence to the set priorities. We hope that on the specified date — the date that was set today, 25 July — we can reach an agreement that can allow the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement and the deployment of the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Marwan Kanafani, you said that President Yasir 'Arafat insisted on including the issue of the prisoners in the Israeli jails as basic part of the agreement. Does this mean there will be a gradual release of prisoners?

[Kanafani] Of course, of course. There will be a gradual, quick release under the supervision of the ministerial committee. As I have said, President 'Arafat insisted that this arrangement must be mentioned in the transitional agreement, so that it can become part of the agreement and must be implemented.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat. See you. [end recording]

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'Urayqat on Outcome of Meeting, Accord

TA0507062995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For a Palestinian reaction to last night's agreement, reporter David Essing spoke with Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat:

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] Well, I think the issues concerning the basic principle for the interim agreement in terms of the stages of redeployment — they just reiterated what was written in the DOP [Declaration of Principles]. And, there were some extensive discussion and detailed discussion of how to go about the redeployment before the election. I think there are some issues concerning the security that are still in dispute. The other issue dealt with is the issue of political prisoners and their release, which will be discussed in the joint ministerial committee and whatever arrangements for the gradual release of the prisoners will be included in the interim agreement.

I think the thing about the joint communique today [4 July] that specified a new target date, a new date — that's the 25th of July. And, we hope that during the next 20 days there will be extensive negotiations, maybe on a daily basis, to try to conclude and to overcome all the obstacles and differences that separate us from signing the interim agreement.

[Essing] Foreign Minister Peres has also said that Israel has not given up overall responsibility for security on the roads. Would you agree that this is the outcome of the latest meeting?

['Urayqat] Well, I would say that there were issues that were detailed by the Israelis; there were issues that were detailed by us. I think this issue is hanging, it is not solved. Israel presented its position, we presented our position, and I think that's the issue why the negotiations need 20 more days. Had we reached an agreement on the security arrangements in the roads we would have signed the agreement today actually.

[Essing] Joint patrols are a solution, do you think?

['Urayqat] Well, I think that the issue here is how to balance between the complexities created by the settlers and settlements in the West Bank and the issue of the Palestinians resuming powers and responsibilities and extending the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, and later on the elected Palestinian council, to really govern ourselves by ourselves. And, that's a very complex issue, especially in areas where there are concentrations of settlements or settlements are inside towns, like Hebron. So, there are some tough issues that need to be handled in the next 20 days. [end recording]

PA Official on 'Conflict' Within Israeli Teams

JN2906154795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the failure of the Palestinian-Israeli round of negotiations on the transfer of civilian powers to the National Authority, Minister of Civilian Affairs Jamil al-Tarifi summed up what has taken place in the talks.

He began by stressing that the Israeli side is not serious and has no intention of achieving results on several issues. He said the Israeli side deliberately refrains from making any commitment. He added that the Israeli delegation which is negotiating the transfer of powers has no authority or instructions to speak about land or handing over any powers in the West Bank on the pretext that the negotiations on redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank have not yet concluded.

Speaking about this Israeli position, al-Tarifi said there is a conflict within the Israeli negotiating delegations in various committees. The committee that discusses redeployment in the occupied territories paralyzes the Israeli delegation which negotiates the transfer of powers. He added that this delegation is paralyzed in accordance with instructions from its superiors. The delegation cannot give us any answers to our proposals, therefore, the subcommittee did not meet yesterday while waiting for answers.

Al-Tarifi said the working paper presented by the Israelis showed the Israeli contradiction. In the past, they said they will negotiate on the transfer of all powers [naql kafat al-sultat], and now they speak about early transfer of prerogatives [naql mubakkir lil-salahiyat]. He said the Israelis are trying to divide the agreement by speaking about water in certain cities and not in the West Bank as a whole. This style is followed in all committees.

Concluding his statements, al-Tarifi emphasized the need to continue the negotiations, and said the Israelis negotiated with Egypt for five years on Taba, whose area is 1 square km.

As for Oren Shahor, head of the Israeli negotiation delegation, he said as usual that the negotiations were good, without giving any additional details.

The two sides will continue their contacts tomorrow, and will meet in Cairo next Tuesday to complete pending issues related to civilian powers. Al-Tarifi has said that if the next round is not going to be fruitful and beneficial, there will be no point in holding it. Thus, all signs emphasize that the 1 July deadline is history.

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Damascus on Chiefs of Staff Meeting With Clinton

JN2906192495 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton received in Washington today Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Army and Armed Forces chief of staff, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli Army chief of staff.

The three-day talks between Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Army and Armed Forces chief of staff, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli Army chief of staff, were concluded today.

On his part, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today said that this week's talks between Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Army and Armed Forces chief of staff, and his Israeli counterpart General Amnon Shahaq in Washington on reaching an agreement on the Golan Heights were a very important step in the right direction. REUTER said that Christopher told reporters it is clear that there is still much work to be done. Christopher added that as planned, Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, will visit the region and Syrian and Israeli experts will hold follow-up talks in Washington in the second half of July.

Israeli Sources: Syrian Offer 'Pleasant Surprise'

TA0507035995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his meeting with the Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi suggested that the 10:6 "territories formula" apply to all of the areas in which security arrangements are introduced between the two countries — demilitarized areas, where the placement of military forces would be totally banned; and thinned-out areas, where military deployment would be restricted and supervised. Al-Shihabi suggested that the measures of the demilitarized and thinned-out areas be based on the 10:6 formula, by which every demilitarized or thinned-out kilometer on Syrian territory, there will be a demilitarized or thinned-out 600 meters on the Israeli side.

Political sources said last night that al-Shihabi presented this formula at the opening of his talks with Shahaq. According to them, this is an opening stand and the Syrians are also aware of the fact that they will have to compromise on a different ratio. "His opening with such a proportion was a pleasant surprise. It could have been worse."

Al-Shihabi's offer indicates that the Syrians have waived their old demand for full symmetry in security arrangements on both sides of the border. In the past, Israeli sources have said that in accepting the document of understandings with Israel on the goals and principles of the security arrangements, Syria accepted the demand that the security arrangements extend deeper into Syrian territory than on the Israeli side of the border. Previously, Israel demanded that the security arrangements be based on a 9:1 ratio, which is proportionate to the difference in size between Israel and Syria.

The same political sources yesterday criticized the document drafted by Brigadier General Tzvi Stauber, who analyzed the understandings on security arrangements between Israel and Syria. According to the sources, there is no basis for Stauber's conclusion that the understandings will lead to a full Israeli withdrawal because Israel has agreed that the security arrangements would not impair the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the each of the parties. "This does not constitute an Israeli agreement to any border line. Security arrangements are made after the line has been agreed on." they said.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 4 July carries a report by Hemi Shalev on page 15 adding: "Israel is demanding that the Golan Heights remain free of Syrian military presence and serve as a special barrier between Israel and Syria.

["The Israeli stand is that the territories to which the security arrangements apply would begin only on the edges of the Golan Heights, that is, beyond the current cease-fire line."]

Israel Rejects Offer for 10:6 Demilitarization

TA0307174995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has rejected the Syrian proposal for mutual demilitarization. The Syrians are proposing that following a peace agreement between the parties and a full Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights, Israel demilitarize an area equal in size to 60 percent of the demilitarized zone along the Syrian side of the border.

However, our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik said that Israeli officials are pleased with Syria's very readiness to accept the principle of geographical disparity in the security arrangements. The Syrian proposal was raised at the meeting of the chiefs of staff in Washington last week. Israel is demanding that Syria demilitarize a far larger area than that demilitarized by Israel.

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Israel Blamed for Lack of Progress

NC3006085195 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, June 30 (AFP) - Syria on Friday [30 June] blamed Israel for the lack of progress made in military talks in Washington on security arrangements to accompany a Golan withdrawal.

Israel's failure to pledge a complete pull-out from the Golan Heights, which it seized in 1967, and agree to symmetrical security arrangements afterwards remains a bone of contention between the two sides, government newspapers said.

Israel's chief of staff, General Amnon Shahaq, talked of "wide differences" Thursday after three days of negotiations in the US capital with his Syrian counterpart Hikmat al-Shihabi.

The official Syrian daily Al-Thawrah said: "If the declarations made do not give the impression of optimism and instead stress wide and basic disagreements and differences, that is because the Israeli party has not yet committed itself to a total withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, and equal and symmetrical security arrangements."

The paper said the future of the peace process depended on the Washington talks. "If Israel thinks of returning to its shilly- shallying, that will mean the final destruction of any hopes of peace."

Al-Ba'th, the newspaper of the ruling Ba'th party, also called on Israel to "make a clear commitment to apply international resolutions and the principle of land-for-peace."

The military talks are expected to resume in two weeks, and US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross is due to visit Damascus and Jerusalem.

The generals agreed in principle on installing early warning stations to prevent surprise attacks, the creation of demilitarized zones on each side of the new border and a reduction of forces in the zones, according to Israeli state radio.

But they did not settle on any practical details, such as the number and location of such stations or the size of the zones, the radio said.

Syria insists that a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan is the key condition of any peace deal, while the Jewish state has refused publicly to give details on a scope of a withdrawal.

Israel also argues that security arrangements could not be symmetrical because it is much smaller than Syria.

Israeli-Syrian Multilateral Talks Held in Geneva

TA3006061095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli representatives held their first meeting with Syrian and Lebanese representatives a few days ago during a seminar held in the framework of the multilateral talks in Geneva.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that Israel was represented in the talks by former minister Avraham Katz-'Oz, who heads the Israeli water team, and a senior Foreign Ministry official. This was the first time that Syrian and Lebanese representatives have participated in activities related to the multilateral talks, because so far they have boycotted these meetings.

Beilin Meets Mauritanian Foreign Minister in Amman

TA0107182095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met in Amman yesterday with Mauritania's foreign minister. Beilin was invited to a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart, who by surprise invited the Mauritania minister.

The Mauritanian minister met with Foreign Minister Peres in Madrid two weeks ago.

Talks on Economic, Peace Links Held

MM0507093995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Jordan Officially Confirms Mauritanian-Israeli Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A responsible Jordanian source has confirmed that a tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-Mauritanian meeting was held in Amman last Friday in the context of the efforts to build a new Middle East following the peace process between the Arab sides and Israel.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting was held in Amman and was attended by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. It took place as part of the Mauritanian foreign minister's visit to Jordan.

The source declined to say what took place at the meeting but referred to Mauritania's interest in establishing

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economic relations with Israel and the EC and its willingness to contribute to the fulfillment of peace requirements.

PA Official on Displaced Persons Committee Meeting

NC0407145595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Walid 'Awad Zaqqut, director of the negotiations affairs department in the Palestinian National Authority, has stressed that the Palestinian working paper to be presented to the meeting of the Palestinian Displaced Persons Committee that starts in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, will deal with the Palestinian view on the definition of displaced persons, their numbers, and the means of absorbing them.

Zaqqut, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Displaced Persons Committee—which includes Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority [PA]—said that tomorrow's meeting will discuss the agenda agreed on at the previous round held in Beersheba.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian official said today that the agenda includes five items: the number of displaced persons, the mechanism for their return to their land, identifying them, the means of absorbing them, and the confidence-building measures.

He added that there is a disputed point between the Arab and Israeli sides concerning the timetable for the return of the displaced persons. Egypt, Jordan, and the PA have demanded that a timetable be set for the return of the displaced persons, but Israel rejects this. He noted that it has been decided to continue to discuss this point.

Zaqqut underlined the need for Israel to be serious in discussing the displaced persons issue so we can reach an agreement on it as soon as possible.

He noted that the Arab side wants the committee meetings to last for two days but the Israeli side is insisting on just a one-day meeting.

About 700,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their homeland after 1967; they are distributed throughout Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and a number of other Arab countries.

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Egypt

Al-Jama'ah Claims Responsibility for Assassination Bid

NC0407073895 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Report by Lee Keath]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, July 4 (AFP) — Egypt's main outlawed Muslim militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah claimed responsibility on Tuesday [4 July] for the failed assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The group, which has been waging a violent three-year anti- government campaign, said it was "responsible for the attempt to assassinate this tyrant" and vowed to try again in a statement sent to AFP. [passage omitted]

The al-Jama'ah warned "its attempts to execute God's punishment on this criminal will not cease, God willing." [passage omitted]

The group called on the "Egyptian army and security forces" to "repent to God ... and join the side of the Muslim people of Egypt in choosing Islam."

The group said the assassination attempt aimed "to save the Egyptian people which lives in poverty, misery and ignorance which are increasing daily."

The operation "proved that the al-Jama'ah can strike painful blows to the enemies of God no matter how long it takes."

The al-Jama'ah said Mubarak was "strangling political parties" and "trying to cancel freedom of the press" with a controversial new law against defamation.

It also accused him of aiding "the Crusader alliance led by the United States in striking the Muslim Iraqi people" and imposing sanctions on Libya.

The group said it would continue its Jihad "until all Islamist and political prisoners are freed ... and the massacres, slaughter and torture of Muslim youth is stopped."

Vows To Continue War on 'Un-Mubarak'

NC0407064995 Paris AFP in English 0630 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, July 4 (AFP) — Egypt's main outlawed Muslim militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah claimed responsibility on Tuesday [4 July] for the failed assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The group, which has been waging a violent three-year anti-government campaign, said it was "responsible for the attempt to assassinate this tyrant," in a statement sent to AFP.

"Our Jihad (holy war) will not stop until God's law is implemented in holy Egypt," it said, adding that the operation was carried out by the Tal'at Yasin commando, named after a Muslim militant killed last year by Egyptian police. [passage omitted on background material]

"The al-Jama'ah, which was honored with executing the promise of God against (former president Anwar) al-Sadat for his heresy and betrayal of Islam, had to execute the punishment of God on the Un-Mubarak because he has taken the same path," it said.

"Un-Mubarak" is a pun on the Egyptian president's name meaning "un-blessed."

Al-Sadat was assassinated at a military parade in October 1981.

"The Un-Mubarak has made himself a rival to God and has formulated a law other than God's," the statement said of the Egyptian leader, who has waged a relentless war against the Muslim militants. [passage omitted on background material]

Security Source Denies 13 Suspects Arrested

NC3006070195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA) — A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry has denied a report that was disseminated by a foreign news agency last night citing Egyptian sources. The report said that 13 defendants suspected of complicity in the abortive attempt on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa on Monday were arrested. The security source said that this report is untrue and absolutely groundless and was not made by an official source of the Interior Ministry.

The source noted that the official statements released by the Interior Ministry Information Office are always attributed to the security source and the official spokesman of the Interior Ministry, which in this case did not happen.

The Interior Ministry security information center urged all news agencies and various media organs to review and verify information before publishing any report that may cause confusion over the ongoing investigation and procedures regarding the incident. He stressed that publishing incorrect reports on this issue will cause confusion and affect the investigations that are going on in strict secrecy. The source noted that the information center will release official statements at the proper time

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when it receives accurate and complete information on the ramifications and circumstances of the incident.

MENA: Sudan Airways Reduces Flights to Cairo

NC0407171095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1653 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA) — A Sudan Airways official in Cairo has stated that the airline's Khartoum-Cairo flights will be reduced from four to two flights a week as of tomorrow, Wednesday [5 July].

Meanwhile, an Egyptair official said that the Egyptian airline will continue its two regular weekly flights from Cairo to Khartoum. with no changes of schedule.

Prosecutor Receives Affidavits Against Sudan Leaders

NC0407205595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—The Public Prosecutor, Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi, has received affidavits from the Sudanese Human Rights Organization, the General Union of the Sudanese nationals in Egypt, and the Arab-African Organization for Economic and Social Development against head of the Sudanese ruling regime 'Umar al-Bashir and leader of the Islamic Front Hasan al-Turabi.

MENA has learned that these affidavits ask the Egyptian public prosecutor to charge the aforementioned persons with attempting to murder President Husni Mubarak and the delegation which accompanied him during his recent visit to Addis Ababa and to apply the Egyptian penal code to this case.

MENA has also learned that those who submitted the affidavits asked the public prosecutor to arrest and arraign the defendants through Interpol and to lodge criminal charges against them.

MENA has also learned that those who forwarded the affidavits assert that on 26 June al-Bashir and al-Turabi, in coordination with others, accosted the motorcade of President Mubarak and his delegation, fired shots at the cars of President Mubarak and his delegation, and placed a car bomb along the motorcade's route to kill the president and his aides.

The affidavits say these acts constitute the material and moral basis of murder. They added that the persons charged intended to kill the president and his aides but failed to achieve their goal for reasons beyond their control. Divine care, which protects against treacherous people, protected the head of the state.

Those who forwarded the affidavits expressed their profound regrets at this conspiracy because President Mubarak represents a national, pan-Arab, and African symbol and heads the largest Arab and African state. They note that the attack on the Egyptian leader represents a direct attack on every Sudanese citizen in Egypt and elsewhere and that it is the culmination of the crimes committed of al-Turabi, al-Bashir, and their terrorist regime.

Suspects: Sudan's Islamic Front Helps 'Terrorists'

NC0407184695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1803 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA) — The terrorists accused of smuggling weapons and explosives from Sudan to Egypt made sensational confessions to State Security prosecutors today.

They confirmed that the Khartoum regime is involved in the financing of terrorist activities in Egypt and has set up camps to train Egyptian terrorists in Sudan.

The suspects confessed that Sudan's National Islamic Front [NIF] assists Egyptian clandestine Islamic groups and encourages their terrorist operations. They added that the NIF shelters several fugitive Egyptian terrorist leaders in farms and terrorist training camps in Sudan.

The suspects told State Security prosecutors that the seized weapons and explosives had been placed inside sacks taken from a sugar factory in Sudan.

They added that in April 1995 they learned that some Sudanese nationals had arrived on the Egyptian border accompanied by some Egyptian terrorists. They were trying to smuggle them into the country.

State Security investigators also listened to the testimonies of 14 witnesses who had leased agricultural land to the terrorists in Aswan. The weapons were later concealed there.

A group of State Security investigators arrived earlier in Sudan to begin their interrogation of the suspects and to inspect the captured weapons and ammunition.

Al-Baz Warns Sudan: Egypt's Hands 'Not Tied'

NC0507060895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that there is a red line which the Sudanese regime must not cross.

At a meeting with Alexandria University students yesterday, al-Baz said Egypt's hands are not tied and that

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it has freedom of action. We have prepared for all possibilities.

Al-Baz warned that the Sudanese regime will be held accountable for any rash measures it might embark upon and will pay a high price for this. He added that there are limits to Egypt's patience. The Sudanese regime must know this. He noted that the Sudanese regime is trying to divert the attention of the Sudanese people from Sudan's internal problems.

Al-Baz said: We hope that the Sudanese regime will not imagine it can threaten Egypt's interests. We have vital interests connected with Egypt's national security. The Nile, which is Egypt's lifeline, is at the top of these interests.

Al-Baz asserted that the Sudanese people are a brotherly people but we object to the policies pursued by the ruling clique there.

Al-Baz said that ugly as it was, the failed attack on President Mubarak was an opportunity to realize the nobility of the Egyptian people. He noted the unprecedented stand of the Egyptian people who were shocked that such an attack had taken place against their leader. He said any attack on the Egyptian president is a direct attack on all Egyptians. This is not the first time the Egyptians have stood as one person; we also saw this when the earthquake and floods occurred.

Musa Vows 'Dire Consequences' if Sudan Involved

NC0407191695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 4 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the accusations levelled at the Sudanese regime in connection with the failed attack on President Hunsi Mubarak in Addis Ababa are not based on nothing, because weapons have been seized, plans drawn up, and contacts monitored in other previous incidents.

Speaking at a news conference he held before leaving Sanaa earlier today, Musa also stressed that "there will be important and dire consequences" if the Sudanese regime is proved to be involved, because this is not a minor affair but an attack on the president of a state.

He said that the accusations that Sudan backs terrorism and extremism do not come from Egypt alone, but also from Africa and foreign countries too. He added that Sudan has to prove its innocence.

In reply to a question, Musa said that a comprehensive peace and normalization with Israel is ultimately linked to real progress whereby the Palestinian people get all their legitimate rights.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said that Egypt rejects eternal sanctions and calls on Arab parties to support the alleviation of the Iraqi people's sufferings. He stressed that Egypt has always rejected the principle of fragmenting Iraq. He expressed hope that sensitivities will disappear soon, differences will end, and relations will return to normal between the Arab countries as part of a comprehensive reconciliation.

Musa described his visit to Yemen as successful and as falling within the context of the natural links between the two countries.

Al-Sharif Discusses Hala'ib, Sudanese Statements

NC0307160195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In statements to the head of this radio's Central News Unit, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has asserted that Hala'ib is Egyptian territory and that Egypt has a right to deploy its forces where and when it likes. But, he said, Egypt does not infringe on others' land; Egypt is a major state which honors charters and agreements.

He clarified that Hala'ib is a crises created by the ruling gang in Sudan who want to exploit it by making statements to cover internal events inside that country. He asserted that the borders between Egypt and Sudan have been and will remain along 22 degrees latitude, as set by a definitive and standing agreement. He added that Hala'ib was and will remain Egyptian territory.

The information minister asked who began these hostile practices, who seized Egyptian universities and the homes of Egyptians, and finally who seized the Egyptian irrigation installations in Sudan. He also asked who began to change the identity of the Hala'ib residents from Egyptian to Sudanese and who closed down the factory there and issued drilling licenses for Hala'ib.

Reacting to the Sudanese information minister's statement that the military option is still available to decide the Hala'ib issue, al-Sharif called on the Sudanese rulers to avoid this kind of hint and such irresponsible statements. He said we reject this and that Sudan's rulers should be alert to President Husni Mubarak's warnings that when it comes to preserving Egypt's national security, all options are open without bounds or counting the cost.

Responding to the Sudanese interior minister's announcement that all agreements with Egypt, including agreements that touch Egypt to the core, will be liable to reconsideration, the information minister expressed his hope that these statements are not true. He also said

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he hoped that the Sudanese rulers will not take such an approach and bring up such issues.

He said: But if these statements are true, I hope the author realizes well that Egypt's liver has always been bitter [reference to the threat to "touch Egypt to the core," meaning that Egypt has always been a "tough nut to crack"] and that Egypt will not accept such hollow words, which are a total departure from domestic and international responsibility.

Regarding worldwide radio reports on the closure of the Sudanese newspaper AKHIR KHABAR on the pretext that it is not loyal to the people, the information minister said the press is always faithful to its public and expressive of the public's opinion.

Al-Sharif reiterated that Egypt used to tolerate such practices by Sudanese rulers in the past and that many times President Mubarak declined to even comment on statements by the Khartoum officials as long as these practices did not encroach on historical constants and Egypt's security. But, he added, the situation worsened recently when Sudan allowed terrorists to enter the country and sheltered them.

Explains Mubarak Threats Against Sudan

JN2906195495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us now listen to the interview colleague George Nawfal has conducted with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on the tension between Cairo and Khartoum. His first question was what is meant when President Mubarak threatens to take measures against Sudan?

[Begin recording] [al-Sharif] The issue with respect to Egypt is not just talk. When the president speaks, he does not just utter words. President Mubarak's statements today came in response to the provocative steps the Sudanese authorities unfortunately took when they expelled the Egyptian military attache in Khartoum without any reason or justification. This violates all norms and international relations. Therefore, the reply to which President Mubarak referred in his speech today to the media personnel is that in reply to this he ordered that the Shalatin area be evacuated from some of the border posts, some of the posts manned by the Sudanese brothers. The reply was that they be removed from the Shalatin area. This is the reaction announced by the president. The president warned that there should be good relations, and that the Sudanese side must not carry out further escalation so that there will not be a counterescalation on the other side.

[Nawfal] President Mubarak announced that Egypt has proof on those who carried out the assassination attempt. We note that following his return from Addis Ababa, President Mubarak accused Sudan. How could he level accusations only a few hours after the assassination attempt?

[Al-Sharif] He leveled accusations because all signs pointed to this. A few days ago, some weapons caches were raided in southern Egypt. These weapons caches contained weapons and explosives. The accurate information the security forces had collected as a result of their infiltration into these Islamic groups, or which claim to be Islamic but in fact are criminal gangs, and the confessions of the defendants clearly showed that these weapons had been passed through various trails on the Egyptian-Sudanese borders and were smuggled from Sudan. The available information also shows that the weapons used in the criminal attack in Addis Ababa were of the same type as the weapons impounded here.

There is no doubt that when the president refers to this issue, he bases his statements on information in his possession. President Mubarak is known for not leveling accusations lightly or randomly. He is always cool and calm and speaks out only when he really feels there is ground for leveling accusations at the appropriate time. [end recording]

Foreign Influence on Sudan's 'Terrorism' Noted

NC0107145095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Al-Bashir's Ugly Face"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ever since Sudan's al-Bashir came to power and took over the presidency of that huge resource-rich country with much water and many rivers, we say that ever since he assumed power, catastrophes, disasters, and calamities have struck Sudan — people, regime, and government. All this would have undoubtedly taken place sooner or later, as long as the chair of the presidency was occupied by an empty and shallow man like 'Umar al- Bashir. We are not passing judgment out of the blue. Indications are clear, proof is certain, and evidence is firm. If once again we scrutinize the pages of the views of al-Bashir's rule, which are full of childish recklessness and madmen's blunders, we will find the following:

First, he did something really stupid when he joined the hind of the Saddamite line, supporting the butcher of Iraq when the latter invaded Kuwait and entered a dark tunnel. We believe that he continues to suffer from stupidity and political ignorance. He also sees

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many things with perverse logic. This stupidity that al-Bashir committed made us feel sorry for the good and well-meaning Sudanese people, whom we believe, nay, whom we swear, do not accept al-Bashir's lies. Second, the crises and problems Sudan is going through are nothing more than the natural return for wrongful and barren policies, which have not only isolated Sudan from its neighbors and brothers, but also from the majority of the international community and placed it on top of the list of countries harboring terrorism. Yes, Sudan has been suffering a terrible ordeal ever since the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime blew the starting whistle for physical annihilation and executions inside the ranks of the Sudanese Army and police. The al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime also transformed the national and security duties into spy duties under the pretext of the requirements for confrontation with the evil forces and dedicated itself to exporting terrorism.

Third, reports from Khartoum inform us of a new series of al-Turabi-al-Bashir provocations, which started a few years ago against the Egyptian citizens and Egyptian property in Sudan, as well as molestations of Egyptian diplomats without any right to do so. All these are clear indications of the collapse of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi brothers' regime. Here, we do not need to assert that the regime in Sudan, which has crises coming at it from all sides, tries to create any conflict with Egypt with the objective of diverting the attention of the Sudanese people from their increasing internal problems. The regime does not commit these stupidities with Egypt alone, but commits similar things with most of its neighbors. What is certain is that the regime in Sudan is facing a crisis after its responsibility in exporting terrorist operations has been revealed. It has also been made clear and confirmed without a doubt that the Sudanese regime harbors terrorism directed at Egypt. It continues to provoke Egyptian interests in Sudan every time crises increase around it. The most recent of these is the crisis of the regime's inability to pay the salaries of the Sudanese employees regularly, salaries which, according to Sudanese newspapers, are normally delayed until the middle of the month. This reveals the bankruptcy of the Sudanese treasury despite what it receives from Iran and other places in return for conspiring against Egypt and Egyptian interests.

The interesting fact is that this sharp economic crisis has happened, according to observers, as a result of the al-Bashir-al- Turabi government's squandering of Sudan's resources on the camps for training the terrorists and funding their operations abroad. Not so long ago, some things were published about the satanic alliance between Sudan and Iran against the people of the Islamic nation where a number of training camps for terrorists were set up on the shores of the two Niles, the White and the Blue, and the Iranian Navy was allowed to use Port Sudan to provide these groups with what they need.

To conclude, we say this: We only give one piece of advice to the rulers of Khartoum: They should save their efforts to provoke Egypt and export their terrorism to it, because Egypt will not allow them to accomplish their objectives from this provocation, the reasons and motives of which we know very well. They should look for a new arena where they can work and excel. We doubt very much that they are able to do anything right, including terrorism. We tell the rulers of Sudan: Egypt cares about the fraternal and historic relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people. It is enough that there are millions of Sudanese living on Egypt's land and enjoying the full rights of an Egyptian citizen. From this perspective, Egypt is keen on keeping some bridges open between it and Sudan, despite the tension and irritation the Sudanese regime in Khartoum is practicing. But how long can this go on?

The answer is: If the rulers of the Sudanese regime insist on proceeding with their crimes and conspiracies, they, and those who follow their suite, must bear the consequences of all legitimate action to stop their tamperings and excesses.

Al-Sharif on 'Misunderstanding' With Ethiopia

NC0507150595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has made a statement to our radio correspondent at the end of the first day of meetings of the Arab information ministers. He pointed out that the Ethiopian authorities will send [Egypt] all the information gathered on the attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in Ethiopia. Al-Sharif added that Egypt has no official notice of the subject [suspension of cooperation with Egyptian investigators].

Al-Sharif said there was cooperation in the investigation between Egypt and Ethiopia but that a misunderstanding occurred because of reports carried by foreign media. He stressed that Egypt fully trusts that the Ethiopian authorities and security services are eager to determine the facts, whether Egypt has investigators in Ethiopia or not.

Stressing that Egypt respects the confidentiality of the investigation, al—Sharif expressed his belief that the Ethiopian investigators are neutral in their work. Al-Sharif added that Egypt made it very clear that it did not announce any involvement by Ethiopian security men in the incident. Reports published in this regard cited foreign news agencies and press, he added.

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Al-Sharif reiterated that Egypt trusts and respects the Ethiopian authorities, that Ethiopia is a friendly state, and that the Ethiopians must appreciate the Egyptians' feelings. The attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa was an attack on the president and leader of all Egyptians, he added. He noted that Egypt and the Egyptian media fully respect the ongoing investigation. If something is said in the media, this must not become a source of provocation, he added.

Discusses Claims on Perpetrators

NC0407113595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to radio correspondent Sabah 'Ulaybah after meeting with the Arab information ministers on 4 July in Cairo — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Ulaybah] There is a rather urgent question I would like to ask. What is your opinion of the Sudanese reactions and vituperations?

[Al-Sharif] Yesterday I made some clear and definite statements on this issue. These statements explain very clearly President Mubarak's warnings. These warnings told Sudan to be sensible, not to provoke the feelings of the Egyptians, and to give all due respect to Egypt and its people. Mubarak told Sudan that all these excesses, demonstrations, and slogans are no good. They are designed to cover up the conspiracy. The conspiracy has taken place and they are trying to cover up for it inside Sudan. They are free to do what they please, but this has been an attack on Egypt and a provocation of the feelings of Egyptians. I repeat to them the warnings of President Mubarak. They must heed these warnings very seriously and not attack Egypt or become too diverted from logic and sense. Any excesses or mistakes will be dealt with decisively and severely. There are many options and ways of dealing with this problem open to us, as the president said. The president also made clear statements to AL-AKHBAR in which he confirmed this point. Again I say: You should be sensible and move away from mottoes and mobilization. Each party should understand its place within the scope of things. I also reiterate that Hala'ib is Egyptian and will remain Egyptian. The treaty and agreement are clear. Latitude 22 is a clear line. They must respect the charters and not be diverted from them. [passage omitted]

['Ulaybah] What is your comment on the announcement by Ethiopian media that the members of the conspiracy are Egyptian?

[Al-Sharif] What was published was a statement citing a ranking official in the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry and another statement issued by the Ethiopian Information Ministry. Despite what was said in these statements, I would like to confirm that Egypt did not, according to what this ranking source claimed, make any statements condemning the Ethiopian security bodies or implicating them. No responsible Egyptian source made any such statement. On the contrary, a responsible Egyptian source said we are confident that the Ethiopian authorities want to and are concerned to uncover the truth. The source said we respect the secrecy of the investigations. We made no statements that denounced Ethiopia or the investigations.

In the statement published the day before yesterday we expressed our hope that the Ethiopian authorities are alert and removed from provocation or excitement. I repeat that no [Egyptian] official has made any statements condemning Ethiopia. We are confident that investigations will take their course. What has been published in the Egyptian press actually quotes foreign news agencies. Foreign news agencies, newspapers, and other analyses highlight this point. The media in Egypt are free, not censored, as you all know. Therefore, they convey what is happening in the outside world and what foreign news agencies broadcast.

Yesterday I also expressed my hopes that the Ethiopian authorities would respect the feelings of the Egyptians and grasp the sense of provocation they suffer when their president and leader is attacked on a visit to Ethiopia. If some statements are made, the Ethiopian authorities must appreciate the turbulent emotions of the Egyptian people when they express their feelings about this incident. But the Egyptian people do not want to harm anyone. We need to appreciate the scope of the incident and the effect on the Egyptian people.

Regarding the [word indistinct], whether the sinful hand is Egyptian, Sudanese, non-Arab, or whatever it is, it is the hand of terrorism. The hand of terrorism does not distinguish among nationalities. What we aspire to is to establish the scope of this conspiracy. Who planned this conspiracy? Who prompted these elements? Who trained them? Who spent months planning to ambush and smuggle in RPGs and automatic weapons? Some weapons were found inside suitcases. Who brought in these cars and planned the attack? Who rented these places that look onto and control the road at a very high price? Who brought in the diplomatic pouch that was found in the defendants' dens, as mentioned in one of the communiques issued by the Ethiopian authorities? It is not important who committed the crime. Terrorism committed the crime. Terrorism has become an international phenomenon, a mafia that does not distinguish between an Egyptian and non-Egyptian. The important point is the scale of this conspiracy, those involved in it, those who planned it, those who paid

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for it, and those who violated the sanctity of a friendly African state.

['Ulaybah] Thank you.

Yemeni Denies Link in Sanaa Hijacking, Attack

NC0207195395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 2 Jul (MENA) — A Yemeni ministerial source denied that there is any connection between the attempt to hijack an Ethiopian airliner at Sanaa Airport this morning and the failed attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on Monday [26 Jun].

The spokesman [as received], who refused to be identified, said in an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent tonight that the investigations that the security authorities have been conducting since this morning with the hijacker have not proved that there is any connection between the two incidents.

The source added that the incident was part of the international terrorism operations that endanger civilians and that Yemen rejects all forms of terrorism and condemns all the attempts that undermine the world's stability and security.

Officials Congratulate Mubarak on Escape

Yemeni Presidential Adviser

NC0207113295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad Salim Basindwah, adviser to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived in Cairo this morning.

Upon arrival, he said he brought a message from the Yemeni president to President Husni Mubarak conveying congratulations from the Yemeni president, Government, and people on President Mubarak's escape from the failed attack in Addis Ababa.

The Yemeni official again denied reports that some of the perpetrators of the terrorist attack on President Mubarak carried Yemeni passports. He said he will try to explain this to the brothers in Egypt.

He said: We are extremely concerned about this issue. We will brief the brothers in Egypt on all the necessary information. We are anxious to ensure Egyptian-Yemeni relations have not been harmed in any way. He stated that Yemen is as concerned about Egypt's security as Egypt is.

Basindwah emphasized that Yemen opposes all forms of terrorism and violence no matter what their sources are. He said: We will allow no one to export violence and terrorism to any country. He noted that what happens to one country today could happen to another country tomorrow.

Syrian Information Minister

JN0407124695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Information Minister Muhammad Salman arrived in Cairo today to lead the Syrian information delegation to the 28th session of the Arab Information ministers conference to be held at the Arab League in Cairo. He was received at Cairo International Airport by Egyptian Foreign Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish, head of the Permanent Arab Information Committee Amin Basyuni, and senior Arab League and Syrian embassy officials.

The minister expressed his good wishes for President Mubarak on his escape from the assassination attempt and denounced this attempt.

In an airport statement, Salman said: While denouncing terrorist acts, we call for cooperation to implement the Arab moral concepts and lay down the foundation for a joint Arab action that will establish society in harmony with Arab culture and history.

Answering a question, the minister said: We hope that there will be cooperation and coordination to implement the Arab League Charter and hope that the Arab brothers will cooperate to promote joint Arab action to serve the Arab nation, build its future, and affirm its existence among nations.

On the meeting's agenda, the minister said that the Syrian delegation presented a working paper related to the necessary coordination among the Arab space channels and their cooperation in the interest of the Arab nation and to protect its generations and preserve their joint history.

Palestinian Finance Minister

NC0407161695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Interview with Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, finance minister in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Muhammad Zayd in Gaza; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zayd] Mr. al-Nashashibi, how do you explain the treacherous armed assault on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his motorcade in Addis Ababa?

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[Al-Nashashibi] We thank God for his excellency the president's escape from this criminal assault. We condemn the attempt on his life. We believe that it was a vile attempt to challenge God's will and put an end to the life of a person who has struggled to defend his people's and his country's rights and the Arab nation's rights. We greatly appreciate his excellency the president's distinguished role in defending the Palestinian people's rights and his solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their full national rights. We thank God for the president's safety.

[Zayd] Mr. Minister, what are your views of how terrorism can be resisted, particularly when it touches a head of state or a man who is the symbol of the state?

[Al-Nashashibi] We condemn any attempt on the life of an Arab official, or even an ordinary Arab citizen. Such acts contradict heavenly teachings and Islamic shari'ah. Our people condemn all forms of terrorism.

[Zayd] Can you comment on terrorist attempts to assassinate a head of state who is seeking regional peace, who has played a significant role in the Palestinian cause, and who is trying to develop the African continent? His visit to Addis Ababa was doubtless in this context.

[Al-Nashashibi] We highly appreciate the president's backing for the Palestinian people's struggle and his contribution to the quest for a comprehensive and just peace. More important than this is his steadfast support for the Palestinian people's struggle and for the Palestinian Authority. We value this very much. We appreciate the assistance given by the Egyptian Government, president, and people to all African nations and the OAU. The attack on the president was not merely an error but a crime.

[Zayd] Mr. al-Nashashibi, thank you.

Party Leader Claims U.S., Israel Behind Attempt

NC0207180795 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Jun 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Liberal Party celebrated on Monday night President Husni Mubarak's safe return to the homeland after escaping the vile attempt on his life.

Speaking at the reception, [party leader] Mustafa Kamil Murad said: We were all shocked by the news of the failed attempt on President Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. He noted that this vile incident was an aggression against all Egyptians and added that the national feelings were expressed in a demonstration of love and support for the political leadership. He said that Mubarak is exerting great efforts for the sake of peace, development, and democracy which can expand and grow with practice.

Noting that Egypt has been targeted for a long time by imperialist powers that do not want stability or progress in Egypt, Mustafa Kamil Murad warned of a repetition of these terrorist incidents in Egypt. He said that Egypt is coming under several international pressures and stressed that no Arab or Egyptian party could be behind the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak. He added that international terrorist organizations that are financed by and trained in some European and American countries are behind this attack that was meant to undermine stability and harm development in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Party Secretary General Rajab Hilal Hamidah said that the attack was an attempt to halt the cycle of development in all fields but God dashed the hopes of the terrorists and saved Egypt and its president. He added: We agree with what President Mubarak said in his news conference, namely that the opposition and the ruling party in Egypt are Egyptians and that there is no difference between a supporter and an opponent in the crises that threaten the homeland.

Deputy party leader Farid Zakariya said that President Mubarak has crossed red lines in the view of the United States and Israel, especially with the issues of nuclear weapons and Jerusalem. He stressed that these countries are behind the vile attempt on the Egyptian president's life. He added that Ethiopia in particular is known to be a U.S.-Zionist citadel and its regime is the agent of these two countries. He noted that President Mubarak indicated this when he said: I sensed that there were strange measures and things happening when they put all the guards in one vehicle and made it drive behind mine and the car that intercepted our path appeared as if it was on a leisurely drive.

Farid Zakariya called on all Egyptians to be vigilant, to confront any party behind this attack, and not to let domestic, Arab, or Islamic conflicts become involved because no domestic, Arab, or Islamic party can undertake such a vile action. [passage omitted]

Saddam Criticized for Cheering Attempt on Mubarak

NC2906205095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1758 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: Shame on you, O Butcher of Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an attempt to prove to himself that he is still alive, Iraq's Haddam [destroyer, a pun on the name Saddam] emerged from his tomb, and, with his

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deceptive media, cheered the ugly, evil crime committed by the agents of the terrorist Sudanese regime against the motorcade of President Husni Mubarak and his delegation while travelling to attend the African summit in Addis Ababa. Egypt's courageous soldiers confronted and prevented the attempt. They killed the mercenaries; a lesson to anyone with a sick, hostile mind who may consider committing aggression against Egypt's people, land, and leader.

There is nothing strange about such behavior by Baghdad's butcher. He has been imprisoning an entire people for five years inside the walls of his vast prison. Do we rule out such unethical behavior from this ruler? This is a ruler who has destroyed all his people's human, economic, and military resources and who has caused shame for all Arabs. Do we rule out cheering for an evil act against the leader of Arab Egypt? This is a country with cultural and political status and a leading, effective role in the international arena. For decades, it has defended the Arab nation and made major sacrifices that affect its economy to this day.

Corruption and manipulation are deeply rooted in Iraq's Haddam. Hence, he was bound to gloat over and cheer this evil action, yet again proving to the Arab nation and the world that his behavior is abnormal.

Do we rule out this behavior from the president of an Arab state who committed the crime of the century? This crime was committed against the Kuwaiti Arab Muslim people. He claimed to be working to liberate Jerusalem, while he was at that time holding secret contacts with Israel. Has this butcher forgotten that the Arab nation is still suffering from the consequences of his ugly crime? What can we say about such an idiot who uses his people as a shield to protect himself and his collapsing regime?

We tell Iraq's ruler that God has thwarted your hopes and those of your kind, the Sudanese rulers, and saved Egypt and its leaders.

No one in the Arab world has tasted the bitterness of humiliation, shame, disgrace, and defeat like Baghdad's ruler. But does he feel any shame? There are hungry and shackled people, muzzled mouths, and full prisons on every inch of Iraqi soil. Iraq's borders are being violated in the north and Saddam cannot say anything. Then, there are repeated plots to overthrow the regime, known throughout the world, followed by sweeping massacres such as the recent one in the Abu Gharib area. And there is an idiotic ruler, forgotten by the world and discounted in all its calculations. Then this dwarf emerges from his underground hole, where he hides in fear of Iraq's revolutionaries, who are chasing him everywhere to kill him. Iraq's Haddam and his son 'Udayy, whom he has put in charge of his deceptive media, come forward to cheer a criminal act against Egypt's leader and people.

Is there more evilness than this? Shame on you, o butcher of Baghdad.

Paper: Attack on Mubarak Endorsed at Geneva Meeting

NC0107172995 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak, which failed and has been condemned by the Egyptian parties, trade unions, and people, has assumed new dimensions. Indications confirm the involvement of some Ethiopian security men in facilitating the mission of the terrorists to carry out the plan. The plan was finally endorsed during a meeting held on Friday [23 June] in Switzerland and attended by terrorists Mustafa Hamzah, Tal'at Qasim, and Ayman al-Zawahiri. That meeting was preceded by three other meetings held in Sudan. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian security authorities have asked the Ethiopian Government to provide it with a list of the names of Egyptians who have entered Ethiopia in recent time. High-level security circles are gathering all the available information on the links between the terrorist groups in Egypt and similar ones in neighboring and African states.

A high-level Egyptian security team has left Cairo for Addis Ababa to follow up the investigations conducted by the Ethiopian authorities. The team is carrying with it copies of fingerprints of two extremists thought to be among those shot by Egyptian security men. An Egyptian judicial delegation will leave for Addis Ababa on Wednesday following the announcement by the Ethiopians of the arrest of one of the terrorists who took part in the assassination attempt. More than two months ago the terrorists rented a villa in which a huge quantity of weapons was found. The justice minister and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi are expected to travel to the Ethiopian capital to follow up the investigations.

In another development, information confirms that leading terrorist Ayman al-Zawahiri was in Khartoum between 12 and 19 June. He later returned to Switzerland to take part in the Friday meeting, which endorsed the plan to attack the president's motorcade. AL-HALI correspondent in Geneva saw al—Zawahiri, accompanied by the son of Sa'id Ramadan, the leading Muslim Brotherhood figure who lives in Germany, at a cafe in the Swiss capital on Friday 26 May. Al-Zawahiri, who is wanted in Egypt on a death sentence, was clean-shaven and wearing a light-colored shirt, a light jacket, and was without his glasses. [passage omitted]

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PA's al-Tarifi Comments on 'Arafat-Peres Talks

NC0507061195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2126 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA) — Dr. Jamil al-Tarifi, the official responsible for civil administration in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has described the talks held today between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Gaza as positive.

In a statement upon arrival in Cairo this evening at the head of the Palestinian delegation taking part in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which start tomorrow in Cairo, he said that based on the joint statement issued after the talks, they will finalize the transfer of basic powers that were supposed to be transferred on 1 July.

He added that the negotiations that start tomorrow will deal with the topics of water, communications, and electricity. He added that we will try to finalize the transfer of these powers, which include the financial resources of each side.

On the issue of releasing the Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons, al-Tarifi noted that agreement has been reached to release 500 detainees in two stages. He clarified that the release of the rest of the detainees will take place gradually because they cannot sign an agreement on the transitional stage without releasing these detainees.

Musa Reportedly Refuses To Meet Serbian Official

NC0407142195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
27 Jun 95 p 8

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has refused to meet a Serbian official who paid a "secret" two-day visit to Cairo last week.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the Serbian official, the assistant foreign minister, visited Egypt without an official invitation. He insisted on coming on the pretext of explaining the Serbs' stand on the situation in Bosnia.

Diplomatic sources confirm that the representative of Serbia and Montenegro asked to meet Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa but the latter refused. The official met with Ra'uf Ghunaym, assistant foreign minister for European affairs, for almost one hour.

Ambassador Ghunaym expressed Cairo's rejection and denunciation of all the proposals made by the Serbian representative and stressed to him that Egypt rejects these political proposals. He also underlined Cairo's commitment to the UN resolutions that stipulate that none of the Yugoslavia republics, especially Serbia and Montenegro, can regard themselves as the legitimate heir to the former Yugoslavia.

In an interview with Croatian radio, the Serbian official has claimed that Serbia and Cairo have almost identical views on the issue of the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian people. But the diplomatic source said these claims are not true. It added that this representative wanted to engage Cairo in a public dialogue in order to make propaganda and political gains. It noted that the Foreign Ministry has summoned the acting charge of the Serbian and Montenegrin Embassy in Cairo and conveyed to him Egypt's denial and rejection of these allegations and underlined Cairo's demand to have this embargo lifted.

Sudanese Threat To Cut Nile Water Denounced

NC0307133295 Paris AFP in English
1251 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 3 (AFP) — Sudan's threat to cut off the Nile waters to Egypt was denounced Monday [3 July] as pure fantasy by an international expert on the problems of irrigation.

"It is totally unrealistic, at least in the immediate future," the expert in Sudan told AFP, asking to remain anonymous. "It could perhaps be theoretically possible in 50 years but personally I don't believe it." He said the Nile's total annual flow was 84 billion cubic metres (2,940 billion cubic feet), of which 10 billion cubic metres (350 billion cubic feet) evaporated yearly.

Under a deal signed between Egypt and the Sudan in 1959 to share the Nile waters Cairo has the right to 55.5 billion cubic metres (1,943 billion cubic feet) and Khartoum 18.5 billion (648 billion cubic feet). Sudan has four dams, two on the blue Nile, one in the northwest on the Atbara, a tributary of the Nile, and a fourth on the White Nile. The first three reservoirs have a capacity of 5.7 billion cubic metres (200 cubic feet), which fell in 1990 to 3.2 billion (112 billion cubic feet) because of silting.

"For some time Khartoum has planned larger dam projects but at the moment they are only on the drawing board and will certainly not materialise.

"This country does not have the necessary financial means and even if it decided to do it it would take years," the expert said, adding the existing barrages were not retaining dams, but were for regulating water flow.

The Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM reported Sunday that Sudan's spiritual leader Hasan al-Turabi threatened "to intervene in the water division agreements between Egypt and Sudan."

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"Egypt's water supply passes through (Sudan) and it does not have any other ground water sources," said al-Turabi, a key influence on the policy of the Islamic regime of President 'Umar al-Bashir. His comments were slammed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who warned: "Those who play with fire in Khartoum should know that our response will be stronger than they think."

Egyptian Minister of Public Works and Water Resources Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi said did not have the right to cancel the 1959 agreement unilaterally saying Khartoum "cannot reduce by one drop Egypt's share of the Nile's water."

The Nile, which rises in Ethiopia and Uganda, passes through Sudan and then Egypt before flowing into the Mediterranean Sea.

Relations between the two neighbours have sharply deteriorated since gunmen attempted to kill Mubarak in an attack on his motorcade in Addis Ababa last Monday which left four people dead. Mubarak accused Sudan of being behind the attack, a charge strongly denied by Khartoum.

Shukri Calls Remarks 'Big Mistake'

NC0307145595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA) — Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the opposition Labor Party, has described as "a big mistake" a statement by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front, in which he threatened to harm Egypt's share of the Nile water. Al-Turabi is certainly not aware how serious this is, he said.

In a statement to MENA today, Shukri said he was greatly astonished at al-Turabi's remarks. He stressed that no one can touch the Nile because this is subject to international agreements and treaties that cannot be affected by individuals.

UDP Condemns Possible Revocation

NC0307174195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA) — At an extraordinary meeting today, the Higher Commission of the Egyptian Unionist Democratic Party [UDP] has stressed its absolute rejection of the threats of Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front, to revoke the Nile water accord with Egypt.

It asserted that if Sudan carries out this measure, it will directly threaten Egypt's national security, which would entail undesirable consequences.

UDP leader Dr. Ibrahim Turk said the threat is serious because the Nile is its main supply of drinking water and because (?97 percent) of the irrigation water comes from the Nile River.

He added that any tampering with Egypt's share of the Nile water, which amounts to 55.5 billion cubic feet annually — Sudan's share is 11 billion cubic feet according the Nile Water Accord signed in 1959 — will mean that Sudan has gone too far.

Political Parties Law Text Ruled Unconstitutional

NC0307150695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Higher Constitutional Court, presided over by Counselor Dr. 'Awad al-Murr, today ruled that the text of Paragraph 2, Clause 15 of the Political Parties Law, which states that both the party leader and the chief editor of the party newspaper are responsible for what is published in the newspaper, is unconstitutional.

The court based its ruling on the fact that the contested text is a penal text that must be subject to the strict criteria applied by the court on the constitutionality of penal texts because of the serious restrictions they impose on personal freedom.

The court said the criminal responsibility of the party leader, which the contested text establishes, is in fact a kind of criminal responsibility by analogy. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic Arrives in Rabat

States Aims of Visit

LD0107180795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic arrived in Rabat this afternoon on a brief visit to our country.

The Bosnian prime minister made a statement on the aims of his visit to Morocco at Rabat-Sale airport:

[Begin Silajdzic recording] The aim of my visit is to examine the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is a very serious situation indeed. Also, to propose emergency and effective initiatives and to examine a number of measures taken by some states and some international bodies. Some of those measures are defeatist and a retreat.

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We are aware that the Kingdom of Morocco occupies an excellent position as far as international relations are concerned, thanks to its constructive and firm position, to its chairmanship of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and to its status as a friendly country which has been supporting the struggle of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in their confrontation with the Serbian aggression. [end recording]

Concerning the argument among Western powers over the Bosnian problem and the arms embargo against the Sarajevo government, the Bosnian prime minister said:

[Begin Silajdzic recording] Of course we are not happy with what is going on at the level of our international relations with other countries and with international organizations. As far as Bosnia-Herzegovina is concerned, there is a clear and unjustified aggression against it.

Nonetheless, the world media have been rather quiet about this aggression. This is a fact. There is no doubt that world media are not doing enough and should face up to their historic responsibilities.

Of course, there are a number of friendly countries that have been trying to take various effective steps. Regrettably, however, and as far as the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina is concerned, there are some stances that we, the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, cannot understand. How can anyone impose an arms embargo against a legitimate government and a whole people when there is aggression against their freedom, territory, and sovereignty? [end recording] [passage omitted]

Comments on Talks With Filali

LD0107214295 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic have focused on topics of common interest.

The Bosnian prime minister made the following statement on his talks with Filali:

[Begin Silajdzic recording] We examined the latest developments in the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Of course, we found Mr. Filali in full grasp of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We will be having more talks later on tonight, God willing, in accordance with the agenda of the visit. He are hoping that Mr. Filali will personally make a number of fresh initiatives. Thank you. [end recording]

Says 'No Peace To Keep'

LD0207222195 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In our weekly international magazine we will tackle the developments of the situation in Bosnia and the repeated acts of defiance of the Serbs through the interview conducted with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladzjic, here in Rabat:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified announcer] Welcome to "The World This Week" program devoted this week to the Bosnian issue. The Bosnian issue is going through a number of military, diplomatic, and political developments. The Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, is being subjected to a heavy shelling by the Serbs. The number of casualties is high. We will try to shed more light on the Bosnian issue since our guest tonight is Haris Siladzjic, prime minister in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Minister, welcome to you from the viewers of the first channel in the kingdom of Morocco. Despite the various pictures carried by the international and Arab media, we would like to hear from you in person what the situation has been really like in the past few days.

[Siladzjic] First of all I would like to take this opportunity to greet your viewers, because this is my first interview with Moroccan television. Peace be upon you. As regards Bosnia-Herzegovina, allow me to give a brief introduction. What has been happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the past three years is a genocide in front of the TV screens and the entire world. There is no doubt this genocide is a well-known and established face, as there is evidence to prove it.

The media are indeed trying to do something, but they are standing in the middle as if they are playing a nonaligned role between those who open fire and those who die, between those who usurp and those who are being usurped. In other words, this role unfortunately not only contravenes the UN charter but also the most basic and humanitarian rules.

[Announcer] The Bosnian government recently announced a general mobilization of the Bosnian forces. Have these forces succeeded in achieving some results on the ground?

[Siladzjic] Yes, the main objective behind our military movements was to prevent a large-scale offensive on Sarajevo because the Serb terrorists had massed huge numbers of troops around Sarajevo. However, the media and United Nations did not say anything about this. Naturally we had to take some measures to prevent a catastrophe and a large-scale and violent offensive on the capital itself.

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[Announcer] The Bosnian Government also announced it would boycott dealings with the UN representative, Mr. Akashi. Does this mean that it will boycott every UN envoy or is it just Akashi?

[Siladzjic] This issue is discussed by the government because these are UN employees who only receive their instructions. However, the problem is the will or the lack of a political will among the major UN members. This is the truth and everybody knows it. As for Aksahi or any other UN employee, they cannot really change anything.

[Announcer] Can we consider what is known as the "rapid reaction force" as a mini-peacekeeping force?

[Siladzjic] First of all there is no peace to keep. There are huge contradications. Moreover, from what I know personally, this force came for the sake of the troops present in Bosnia-Herzegovina to protect them. In other words it does not protect the innocent population from genocide, mass murder, and mass deportation. Not at all. On the contrary it protects the troops present on the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina. As far as I am concerned this is not clear to me and we will see.

[Announcer] Recently there was some talk that centered on the possibility of Arab Muslim forces to be sent to the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly after the convening of the 7th Islamic summit in Casablanca. Is there a possibility of sending Arab forces, and what is the role that Morocco can play to solve the Bosnian problem or at least to ease the crisis ?

[Siladzjic] Actually these are four questions put in one. However, I will try to answer them. First, as I said, the Moroccan Kingdom is a member of the international community, and it has a special place because of taking firm and constructive stands on solving problems that confront the international community.

Second, the Moroccan Kingdom is the chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] at the present time. This means that OIC includes almost one third of the UN organization membership. Also, the Moroccan Kingdom is a friendly state. It supports the Bosnian issue (?as a just issue) [words indistinct]

We have discussed all these matters with [Moroccan] Prime Minister Filali, and he told us he will visit some European capitals — Paris is one of them — to discuss what can be done immediately, I mean, taking urgent and effective measures to put an end to the tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The measures would include diplomatic measures at bilateral and organizational levels. He said he will propose that the two contact committees, i.e. the OIC committee and the EU contact committee, should meet immediately or before the end of this month.

We are building a democratic and modern state. We are authentic European Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we will remain Muslim, praise be to God. If we do not put an end to this tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, this, this disease will spread throughout the world. [end recording]

Holds Departure News Conference

LD0307171795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Bosnian prime minister left Morocco a few moments ago. He held a news conference at Rabat-Sale airport before his departure. The details are with Zohra Khaldi:

[Khaldi] Haris Silajdzic, the prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, stressed that diplomatic initiatives and moves will be carried out at various levels regarding the crisis lived by the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. These initiatives will be carried out so as to revive the peace efforts in the region.

In the news conference he held at the airport before his departure from Morocco today, the Bosnian prime minister talked about the most important issues that were dealt with during the meeting with his majesty King Hassan II. The Bosnian prime minister said:

[Begin Silajdzic recording] Naturally, I had the great honor today to meet his majesty the king for the first time. We discussed issues concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina in detail. His majesty replied that he will support us and help us as much as possible, and we agreed that we will make a diplomatic initiative, including a visit of Prime Minister Filali to Paris and Brussels, and a diplomatic move at the level of heads of states regarding the convening of an extraorcodinary session of the UN General Assembly on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The initiative will also include a diplomatic move, also at the level of heads of states, regarding a meeting of the Islamic contact group, representing the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference], and the Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which consists of America, Germany, England, France, and Russia. This Contact Group's established role is to discuss the situation concerning the international peace plan that was put forward by this group a year ago. As you know, that peace plan was rejected by the Serbs, but we accepted it, despite the fact that it is an unjust plan, only for the sake of peace. [end recording]

[Khaldi] Concerning the meeting of the Islamic and international contact groups on Bosnia, and whether

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there are precise priorities or draft proposals to be put forward by the Islamic side to the five states, Haris Silajdzic stressed that there is a proposed date for the holding of a meeting before the end of this month, and he emphasized that such a meeting should be held as soon as possible, given the difficult and delicate situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In an answer to a question on the topic of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia, the Bosnian prime minister said:

[Begin Silajdzic recording] A great deal depends on the vote at the U.S. Senate, and we hope that two-thirds of the vote will be in favor of the arms embargo. I want to say something: We do not want a lifting on the arms embargo to wage a war; we are a peaceful people, but not a surrendering people. We want peace, and if we manage to secure peace without weapons, then naturally, it will be better, but the international community is unable to force the Serbs to accept the peace plan, and to mediate on these matters. Therefore, there must be either a lifting of the arms embargo or an intervention by the international community. This means that we have arrived at a stage of a genocide and mass expulsion of people taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina for three years. This is shown on television, but almost the only response of the international community was to impose an arms embargo on the victim, not on the aggressor, but on the one that is subjected to aggression. This is not normal; this is an historic mistake. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Communique Issued After Omani Minister's Visit

LD0107130595 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Morocco/Oman Rabat, July 1 (MAP) — The latest visit paid by Omanese State Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-Abdallah to Morocco was crowned with the creation of a joint commission in charge of boosting cooperation between the two countries in various sectors.

A communique released here says the two parties reviewed the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes and other topical issues of common concern.

The Omani official had talks with Moroccan ministers of education, culture, finance and foreign investments on ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in these sectors, the communique says.

There are huge partnership opportunites in the economic, financial, and commercial sectors, the same source says calling for the opening of new maritime line between the two countries to accelerate trade exchanges and foster cooperation.

In the cultural sector, the two sides voiced satisfaction at their cooperation namely in historical sites preservation and called for more efforts to step up cultural cooperation through the continuation of the exchange of visits between the two countries theater troupes and musical bands and through participation in the cultural events organised by the two parties.

During his stay in Morocco between June 26-28, the Omanese state foreign minister was received by King Hassan II to whom he conveyed a message from Sultan Qabus.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Country 'Innocent,' 'Unfairly Accused'

EA0507110095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1825 GMT 3 Jul 95

[Speech by President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God who established by way of the [national] salvation [revolution] a strong (?administration) to preserve the valuable tenets of the faith. Praise be to God who fulfilled his promise by giving ability and strength to his blessed soldiers through clear victories, and who himself defeated the parties, the rebellion, and the traitors. [passage omitted]

Honorable brother citizens, God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. As good friends we advance equally toward a new year in the national salvation revolution's life. May God lengthen it. We are on the brink of our seventh year after a good performance over the past years, which witnessed efforts and achievements which cannot escape any eye — liberation of will and decisions which seem odd to the present world in which the powerful impose their hegemony over all the options of the meek.

From its inception, your revolution was confronted by the rabid [word indistinct] of confrontation. On 30 June 1989 [words indistinct] the unjust political situation, and to subdue the civil war in Darfur, extend peace in the regions of Sudan, and transform the face of Sudan from a receiver of food into a self-sufficient and exporting state. Its economy changed from one which is propped up to one reliant on its own resources. [passage omitted]

That is why the enemies of Sudan drew the swords of enmity against it, and thrust their tools one after the other into the battlefields in an artiful conspiracy against its cultural course. Accordingly their news agencies and forums competed in ascribing to Sudan a triple lie — that it violates human rights, [practices] terrorism, and [promotes] fundamentalism. To prove it, they hired

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reporters, asked ignoramuses for views, and consulted fools.

However, all this failed because human rights are protected by the verses of the protected book, and the laws of the guiding prophet — may God bless and grant him salvation — by Sudanese society's upright and perfectly well-knit morals and customs.

In regard to terrorism, terrorism is a standard practice drawn from their [the enemies] manners and practices — their practices. They bear a burden, and the burden of [words indistinct] until the day of resurrection.

As for fundamentalism, fundamentalism is a reaction to their flagrant fanaticism in antagonizing whoever adopts a contrary stance. We have nothing before us but to return to the upright religion of Islam. They face before them, and to their right and left, incidences of terrorism, fundamentalism, and violation of human rights in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, Libya, and many other parts of the world, but their rose-colored spectacles obscure those defects from them.

Honorable citizen brothers: The revolution hastened hard upon its blessed advent to hold the economic salvation conference in response to the demands of need and science. The resolutions of the conference advocated the policies of liberalization: the lifting of subsidies from commodities, the unification of the exchange rate, the raising of production, which became positive by achieving an overall rate of growth of between 8 and 13 percent. It is a rate that has no equal in the developing states.

Sudan has committed itself to paying its debts to the IMF in a (?regular) manner. Technical committees have met to monitor performance, and conduct regular inspections. They have submitted positive reports. The mortgaged will of the powers of arrogance use economic restrictions as a means of pressure to subjugate and punish people for taking up their own systems on general international issues. They [powers of arrogance] repeatedly postpone matters in a manner which resembles rejection and suspension to influence the march of Sudan toward victory, independence, and development, to the extent that some people have expressed astonishment: How can Sudan advance without their support? How can it triumph in a more extensive war with its external ramifications than the so-called rebellion? How can Sudan inaugurate a new development project or establishment every day?

In this, honorable citizens, there is a message to the oppressed people: God is the firm powerful provider. Plans to improve economic performance are under way, God willing and trusting in god, until it becomes maximal. Then to increase production, diversify exports, and enact laws to govern economic performance and confront the negative effects of inflation on the poor and the miserable, for whom charity [zakah] effectively contributed toward easing the pressure of life's difficulties.

Last year's revenues totalled 16 billion pounds, all of which was directed to meet the known expenditure on charity to provide security for a society in a state of Islam. [passage omitted]

God has bestowed such great successes and benefits on Sudan, foremost among which is the raising aloft of the banner of righteousness and Shari'ah, and the establishment of a state of Islam in a world dominated by materialism, infidelity, and hypocrisy. Such successes are bound to attract the resentment, jealousy, and reproaches of repulsive people, agents in the region have consolidated [passage indistinct].

Here now we have their conference dozing off to an evil conclusion in boldly declaring against, and dismissing the Islamic legislation, and in favor of establishing secularism in its place, in keeping with the malicious whims of Zionism, and the remnants of Marxist ideology. What can be [word indistinct] the effect of the Islamic awakening, and the Islamic Republic after that piece of bankruptcy?

We are now being unfairly accused, but Sudan is innocent. There are [word indistinct] threats, but our people are prepared for this. Their tumultuous and angry march this morning confirmed that our people are not frightened by any threats. No threats can turn them away from their objectives [words indistinct]. [crowd shouts: "There is no God except Allah"] They are being pushed by internal failure, and their [word indistinct] from their suppressed people, and their deviation from God's straight path to seek someone to blame falsely and wrongly, but we believe that God will triumph and frustrate their machinations and plans.

The deep links, the genuine (?principles), and the close interests which link us with the people of Egypt are stronger than any governing schemer and his efforts to weaken those links, which are protected by the will of the two peoples and spring from the will of almighty God. We will not begin hostilities against anyone, but we shall respond to any hostility against us, whatever its dimensions or force. The aggressor will suffer in the end. [passage omitted]

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Denounces 'Conspiracies'

EA0407104095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has said that Sudan will respond with force to all conspiracies which target its Islamic orientation, and its civilization scheme. It will not even neglect one inch of the homeland's territory.

In a speech delivered last night at a well-attended rally in the Friendship Hall in Khartoum on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, he said that the march of anger witnessed in Khartoum yesterday, in which hundreds of thousands of people participated, represents a strong reply to those scheming against the country, and those plotting hostile conspiracies against us.

His Excellency dealt with the main points of Sudan's foreign policy, its open-door policy toward the countries of the world on the basis of parity, mutual respect, and noninterference in the internal affairs of states, the efforts to achieve common interests, and respect for the country's sovereignty.

In his speech the president of the Republic gave a comprehensive review of Sudan's achievements in all fields, in spite of the country's circumstances. He made it clear that they represent a message for the meek on earth that God is the one who provides sustenance, and that dependence on one's own resources, and the freeing of the decisionmaking process, as well as the rejection of hegemony and subordination, represent protection for real independence. He referred to the projects to raise the Rusayris Dam, the construction of the Hamdab Dam, and others to ensure self-sufficiency in energy production so as to attain the desired development.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir hailed the efforts of the Armed Forces, the People's Defense Force, and the regular forces, and the victories achieved with the recovery of towns, the curbing of the rebellion in the south, and the extension of stability to Darfur. He referred to the influx of hundreds of thousands of returnees within the framework of achieving peace from within the country. He hailed the souls of the martyrs which have become beacons along the road of the jihad to achieve the goals.

His Excellency touched on achievements in the economic field where it varies between 8 and 13 percent, the highest percentage in the world. [sentence as heard] This confirms the success of the economic policies in achieving the desired development. He also reviewed achievements in the health and treatment areas through the opening of health institutions, and the provision of medicine.

He also dealt with achievements in the area of federal rule with the creation of 97 governorates in 26 states, and the establishment of representative assemblies, all of which represent the building of political structures, and the handing over of power to the citizens.

The president of the Republic commended the citizens' response to the revolution's slogans, and their self-reliance, in spite of the circumstances of suffering, achieved as a result of their faith, and the patriotic role of concerted efforts to face challenges with a sincere spirit of responsibility, objectivity, and self-denial.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir dealt with the work of the zakah [religious tax] bureau, which has distributed 16 billion [Sudanese] pounds among the deserving people. This confirms the value of mutual help, in addition to the government's efforts in alleviating the burdens faced by citizens.

Khartoum Rally Condemns Egyptian 'Provocations'

EA0307160095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese masses gathered in Green Square in Khartoum this morning to march, and to express their great anger and rejection of the Egyptian regime's provocations and its repeated acts of aggression against Hala'ib region.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, received from the units which took part in the March an oath of holy war and martyrdom [bay'at al-jihad wa al-istishhad] to protect territory and honor.

In an interview for the radio at Green Square, Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the minister at the presidency of the Republic, said the march confirmed the cohesiveness of the internal front and the citizens' support for the revolution. He said it should be considered a message to all hostile circles and regimes opposing the country's unity and its cultural path. He said Sudan was capable of defending God's law and the homeland.

Brigadier Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, the interior minister, condemned the Egyptian provocations, while Mr. 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif, the minister of roads and communications, expressed disgust at the Egyptian regime's illogical escalation of the differences between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, will this evening deliver an important political address to the Sudanese nation, in a big rally or-

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ganized by the sectoral groups and the national organization for the defense of the faith and the homeland, at Friendship Hall in Khartoum, as part of the country's celebration of the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

Al-Bashir Hails Masses

EA0307142395 Khartoum SUNA in English 1047 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 3 Jul (SUNA) — Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese people staged a mass rally at the Green Square in Khartoum Monday [3 July] to demonstrate support to the national salvation revolution and condemn the Egyptian escalation and aggression at Hala'ib Province as the country's celebrations of the 6th anniversary of the national salvation continued. The rally was attended by president of the Republic Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, senior government officials and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Khartoum.

The demonstration also included the graduation of more than 40,000 People's Defence Forces Mujahidin besides people's police recruits. The graduated recruits swore Bayah oath of allegiance to President al-Bashir and to defend the homeland. President al- Bashir stood on a platform as a procession comprising units of the various branches of the Armed Forces, People's Defence Forces, police, people's police, national service besides members youth, women, students and trade unions and professional organizations marched before him.

President al-Bashir hailed the masses who converged on the Green Square, located north of the airport from all parts of Khartoum State. The demonstrators carried banners and chanted slogans which reaffirmed salvation revolution and its programmes and reiterated readiness to defend it. They also condemned the recent provocation by Egypt against the Sudan and its occupation of the Sudanese province of Hala'ib. The huge mass rally is considered as a strong reply by the Sudanese people to the provocations of the Egyptian regime.

The demonstrators also burned portraits of elements of the so- called Sudanese opposition, including those of Mohamed Usman al- Mirghani, leader of the dissolved Democratic Unionist Party, outlaw John Garang and 'Umar Nuradeen of the dissolved 'Ummah Party as they chanted slogans denouncing their stances and of being agents to foreigners.

Assembly Issues Statement on Egyptian Attack

EA0507113595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] chaired by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin al-Basir, deputy speaker of the TNA, issued a statement today about the Egyptian attack on Hala'ib. The statement explains that the Egyptian attack came in the wake of the abortive attempt in Ethiopia to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime. The statement adds that the (?repetition) of efforts by the Egyptian regime to associate Sudan's name with that attempt aims to divert Sudan from its fundamental causes.

The statement expresses its conviction that it is the salvation revolution's civilization orientation that impelled Egypt to carry out this aggression. It affirms that the sons of Sudan who liberated the south are capable of liberating every inch of the homeland's territory.

The statement says that the Sudanese and Egyptian people will remain brothers by virtue of history and language. The statement praises the stance adopted by the Ethiopian State, and its disclosure of the facts. The statement also points out the need to mobilize the Sudanese people and their organizations to confront this stand. [sentence as heard]

Minister: Investigations Prove No Involvement

EA0407160195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudan welcomes the results of the investigations by the Ethiopian security organs into the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, in Addis Ababa. The investigations clarified that the engineers of the assassination attempt were Egyptians. This was announced by Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, at the ministry's regular forum today. He affirmed that the results of the Ethiopian investigations absolved Sudan from the accusations against it by the Egyptian regime.

Dr. Atabani said the Egyptian escalation in the Hala'ib area was still continuing. He referred to the Egyptian regime's recent provocations in Hala'ib.

The minister of state at the Foreign Ministry explained that the Egyptian Government's decision to reduce the number of Sudanese flights to Egypt was intended to curtail the relations between the two peoples.

He affirmed that the only way out of the Hala'ib crisis was acceptance of international arbitration. He called on the Egyptian Government to agree to the principle

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of arbitration in this case. Dr. Atabani pointed out that Sudan did not approve of military options, believing that military options cannot resolve any issue.

About the Eritrean movements in eastern Sudan, he said the Sudanese Armed Forces were capable of repulsing any aggression against them.

Dr. Atabani denied that Sudan sponsored terrorism, pointing out that the world's powers of arrogance which were accusing states of sponsoring terrorism should define the absolute and constructive criteria of such accusations. [passage omitted]

Minister Briefs Foreign Envoys on Ties With Egypt

EA0107204895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, met today with envoys from four of the permanent members of the Security Council — namely the ambassadors of France, Russia, [word indistinct], and the Chinese charge d'affaires — separately in his office. He briefed them on developments in Sudanese-Egyptian relations following the attemped assassination [words indistinct] Addis Ababa.

The minister said that the Egyptian president began his campaign of blaming Sudan for what had happened immediately after his arrival in Cairo, just two hours after the attack against him in Addis Ababa. It should be noted that the investigation was in the hands of the Ethopian authorities, who denied, through their interior minister, the allegations about the arrest of a Sudanese citizen accused of taking part in the assassination attempt.

The minister pointed out that, even if it were proved that a Sudanese citizen had taken part, this could not be taken as evidence of Sudan's collusion in the incident.

The minister drew the attention of the ambassadors of the permanent members of the Security Council to the fact that it was the Egyptian regime which initiated the military escalation in the Hala'ib region, and killed one Sudanese officer and two Sudanese soldiers. The minister said that the Egyptian authorities' allegations that it was Sudan that began hostilities against Egyptian Forces could not stand rationally or logically, as there are ten times more Egyptian Forces than Sudanese Forces in the Hala'ib region.

Moreover, most of the Sudanese Forces were police, while the [words indistinct] were armed, and in addition Sudan is fighting a war in the south — it could not be one of its priorities to open a new front in the north.

The minister said that this was the second act of aggression perpetrated by the Egyptian Forces in Hala'ib. Their first act of aggression was in April 1992, when two Sudanese soldiers were killed in the Abu-Ramad area. Despite this, Sudan preferred patience and self control, indeed it suggested a dialogue to enable the two countries to contain these incidents, instead of political and military escalation.

The minister also [words indistinct] Egyptian Government's policies, which had become public through the news media. These policies encourage acts of sabotage against installations and civilians. This behavior must be condemned if we are to pass judgement on the basis of justice [words indistinct] terrorism.

The minister informed the ambassadors of Sudan's desire not to escalate the situation politically or militarily, but said Sudan was ready to defend its territory, whatever the cost and sacrifice. The minister conveyed to the ambassadors the gravity of the Egyptian escalation and its regional and international effects on security, stability, and world peace. He asked that their countries exercise their international responsibilities to stop Egyptian aggression in all its forms.

Official Says Egypt Seeking To Topple Regime

JN0307100595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 3 Jun 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Ayman Barakat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Minister of the Bureau of Federal Government Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad has said that the Egyptian Government is now working for, and using all means to topple the regime in Sudan and abort the National Salvation Revolution.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ASWAQ, the Sudanese minister said the Egyptian attempts strengthen the Sudanese Government, and the Sudanese support for the Salvation Revolution increases daily as a result of all these desperate attempts.

He said the assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak and holding Sudan responsible for this attempt immediately after his arrival in Cairo is a sort of exposed cover-up for the internal situation in Egypt.

He said an inequitable war is currently taking place in Hala'ib between the Sudanese police force of 500 men and Egyptian forces whose number is more than 4,000 soldiers. He said a number of Sudanese policemen were killed or injured.

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Minister Hints at Canceling Nile Accord With Egypt

NC0507104195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 5 Jul (MENA) — Sudanese Interior Minister Brigadier General al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr has stated that "any attack by the Egyptian forces on the Sudanese police force in the Hala'ib triangle will be considered a clear violation of the border agreements between the two countries." He added that "if such an attack takes place, Sudan will be free of its obligations to other agreements between the two countries, including the agreement on sharing Nile waters."

In a press statement today, the Sudanese minister reiterated his government's stance on the Hala'ib issue, saying "although Sudan believes in a diplomatic solution of this problem, the time has come to adopt a clear stand on the border agreement with Egypt."

Official: Mubarak Suffering 'Psychological Shock'

EA0407123595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 4 Jul (SUNA) — The Ethiopian Government has announced that the five who were killed while trying to assassinate the Egyptian president in Ethiopia are all of Egyptian nationality, and that all the news agencies which reported this news considered it a sufficient proof for the false allegations made against Sudan by the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, reported AL-INGAZ AL-WATANI daily newspaper.

In this regard, the minister of culture and information and the government official spokesman 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, said the result [of] the investigations affirmed what we have said before, that the Egyptian president is suffering from a severe psychological shock, and his accusations to Sudan emanate from his system which shoot down everybody they suspect him to be from the Muslim groups. [sentence as received]

Sabdarat added in a statement to AL-INGAZ AL-WATANI that the Ethiopian Interior Ministry has returned back the allegations to Egypt and falsified the Egyptians' allegations against Sudan following it's announcement that all those who carried [out] the assassination attempt were of pure Egyptian nationality.

Cairo Measures Against Airline Called 'Escalation'

EA0407114095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 4 Jul (SUNA) — The Egyptian Aviation Authority has taken new measures against Sudan Airways Company as it [has] suspended Sudanair right to exercise the [words indistinct] beyond Cairo to Europe. It also decided to reduce the number of Sudanair regular direct flight to Cairo to two flights a week only. It is to be noticed that these measures came in the context of the political escalation by the Egyptian regime against Sudan.

Attack Mastermind Said Culprit in NY Bombing

NC0307125195 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Knowledgeable sources have told AL-WAFD that Sudanese national Muhammad Siraj, the mastermind of the assassination attempt against President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, is the same Siraj al-Din Yusuf Hamid who was the Sudanese consul in New York and who was charged by U.S. authorities with perpetrating the World Trade Center bombing and of trying to bomb the UN building. As is happens, the U.S. police are looking for the fugitive terrorist Siraj.

It is worth noting that Siraj was part of the government delegation at the UN Human Rights Committee's meetings in Geneva in 1994.

Border Dispute With Egypt Taken to World Court

AB0407204295 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 4 (AFP) — Sudan announced Tuesday [4 July] that it has taken its dispute with Egypt over the Red Sea territory of Hala'ib to the World Court for arbitration.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, told a press conference the situation in the border territory was still tense.

"The Sudanese forces there are not responding to Egyptian provocative acts which are still being carried out," he said.

Egyptian troops have been "encircling Sudanese troops in Hala'ib ever since the attack on Egypt's President Husni Mubarak and have prevented them from fetching drinking water."

Egypt has warned of action against Sudan since the failed assassination bid against Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26.

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Sudan has denied any involvement but the tension boiled over into clashes on the border last week in which Khartoum says an army officer and two of its policemen were killed.

On Monday, Egyptian troops fired howitzer shells over Hala'ib and four MiG fighters flew over the town, "apparently to intimidate the town's inhabitants," Atabani charged.

He said Sudan's presence in Hala'ib was "token, to prove our right in the territory and we have always stated that we do not want war in the north."

Khartoum, which has also called for Arab League mediation and protested to the United Nations over the clashes, urges Cairo to agree to arbitration by the World Court in The Hague to resolve the Hala'ib issue, Atabani said.

"In view of the chronic nature of the problem which erupts from time to time, we demand arbitration so that the problem does not poison our relations with Egypt," he said.

Atabani also welcomed the findings of the investigation by the Ethiopian authorities that the suspects in the Addis Ababa attack were Egyptians.

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Kuwait

Oil Minister Details 'Successful' Russia, Iran Visits

LD3006152195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 July (KUNA) — Oil Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj and the delegation accompanying him, returned to Kuwait today from Iran after a two-week tour which also included a visit to the Russian Federation and participation in the OPEC meetings in Vienna.

Dr al-Mid'aj told journalists on his return that his visits to Iran and Russia had been successful and that they had helped to open up a new door to oil cooperation with the two countries.

He said that in Russia he had met the oil minister and the directors of Russian companies, and that "we have opened the door to dealing and cooperation in the field of oil between us and them."

Dr al-Mid'aj and his Russian counterpart chair the committee responsible for developing economic, technical, and scientific relations between Kuwait and Russia. Al-Mid'aj said: "We agreed on the need for meetings to continue at the technical level between Kuwait and Russia in the oil sector."

Al-Mid'aj said he believed that the holding of a Russian fair in Kuwait at the end of this year or the beginning of next to market Russian products would help to increase the volume of commercial transactions between the two countries and that traders and companies in the two countries would benefit from the holding of such fairs.

He added that the Kuwaiti delegation had heard a detailed explanation from Russian companies about their resources "and they briefed us on their technical and technological capabilities in the area of the oil industry. We can say that we have opened doors with Russia in this aspect."

On his visit to Iran, al-Mid'aj said that he had held good discussions with his Iranian counterpart, Gholam Rezah Aqazadeh- Kho'i, "regarding cooperation between us and the oil sector in Iran, and there were proposals in this area." [passage omitted]

He went on to say that "the talks focused on technical and technological cooperation between us and Iran in the exchange of oil expertise and information in addition to the participation of Iranian oil companies in the development projects of the Kuwaiti oil sector. We welcome them within the existing Kuwaiti laws and standards". [passage omitted]

Minister Assures Assembly on Budget Deficit

LD0107194195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 1 Jul (KUNA) — Nasir al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning, said today that the government is progressing steadily toward the elimination of the deficit of the state's general budget.

Al-Rawdan was addressing the National Assembly's session allocated for discussing the financial statement presented by the government regarding the general budget draft for the coming financial year. He added: "The wheel of reform has started through rationalization of expenditure and control of the public expenses to the amount of 250 million dinar per year."

He expressed hope that the deficit, estimated at 1.5 billion dinar, will end by the year 2000.

A number of the Assembly's members had criticized the government's statement, saying that it did not constitute a serious treatment of the budget deficit.

Al-Rawdan said that the conditions the state had experienced as a result of the unjust Iraqi aggression had greatly increased the expenditure, while oil revenues, which consisted of over 90 percent of the gross domestic product, stopped [during the crisis].

He added that despite this the state had managed to finance the liberation war operations and spent on the citizens during these conditions, and worked on reconstruction after the liberation.

Al-Rawdan pointed out that the general budget is suffering from numerical as well as structural deficit concerning the structure of the Kuwait economy.

Al-Rawdan added that it is easy to eliminate the numerical deficit "probably if oil prices increased suddenly, subsequently the state's income will increase, while the structural deficit needs the mobilization of the National Assembly's and the government's efforts to be eliminated."

He said: "We are progressing in the right direction by rationalizing expenditure and controlling expenses, but we need to take other measures," referring to the privatization operations that the government is implementing and the government's intention to levy duties on some of the free services it renders.

Al-Rawdan said that the privatization operation will remove some of the government's burdens while the levying of duties is aimed basically at rationalization of consumption and saving a lot of expenses the general budget is bearing.

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Al-Rawdan stressed that the "government is feeling the pulse of the street and will avoid putting extra burdens on people with limited income, in agreement with the National Assembly."

He said: "We do not want to burden the citizen... but we have the courage to say that the time has come to levy duties in order to rationalize expenditure."

Al-Rawdan denied that the government has concealed any information regarding the state's financial center from the National Assembly members, affirming that "the government and the assembly are partners in shouldering the responsibility."

He said: "We are both in the same boat in controlling expenditure and stopping wastage."

For his part, Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the National Assembly, who was talking from the members' seats, said that the Assembly is not against the principle of imposing duties to resolve the problem of the budget deficit.

He said: "What raises questions is that the government says that the bad debt bill constitutes a burden on the government, then it seeks to amend it in way that increases these burdens."

Qatar

Amir Launches Economic Reforms, Endorses Stock Market

NC0307142295 Paris AFP in English
1337 GMT 3 Jul 95

[By Babiker Issa]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, July 3 (AFP) — Qatar's new ruler on Monday [3 July] launched reforms to revive the economy, endorsing a long-awaited bourse project which dealers expected to boost domestic investment and stimulate the stagnant stocks sector.

Less than a week after he overthrew his father in a bloodless coup, Shaykh Hamad bin-Khalifa Al Thani issued a law establishing a formal stock exchange more than a year after it was approved by the cabinet, the official news agency QNA said.

"The Doha stock market is designed to boost domestic savings, create new investment opportunities to serve the national economy and strengthen cooperation with the foreign financial markets," the agency said.

It said the market would be supervised by the finance and economy minister and trading would be initially confined to local institutions.

But dealing could cover shares from Gulf and other countries in line with a cabinet decision if it is deemed necessary, it added.

The Qatari cabinet approved the Doha-based bourse project last year after the monetary authority (Central Bank) completed relevant laws.

But it had still to be ratified by the former amir, Shaykh Khalifa bin-Hamad Al Thani, who was ousted Tuesday while on a private trip to Switzerland.

Shaykh Hamad, who has virtually run Qatar over the past two years, said he had to topple his father, citing unspecified difficult conditions.

"The approval of the stock market by the new ruler so quickly shows he is determined to revive Qatar's economy that has been affected by low oil prices over the past few years," a Gulf-based economist said.

"It was apparent he was referring to difficult economic conditions. I think there will be more economic moves during his reign."

Qatar has produced over 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil over the past year but low prices have sharply slowed down its economy and created persistent deficits in its budget and balance of payments.

While other Gulf Arab oil producers have either embarked on reforms or announced plans to offset the damage of weak oil prices, there had been no indications Qatar intended to follow suit in the near future.

Economists said new moves by Shaykh Hamad could also include an improvement of investment laws, which they blamed for scaring away foreign capital.

"Another thing is that we are going to see an acceleration in the implementation of the liquefied natural gas project," an expert said, referring to the multi-billion-dollar venture to tap the huge North Field.

The project, costing more than 10 billion dollars, will eventually produce around 16 million tonnes of LNG, fetching Qatar nearly half its current income, according to bankers. The government has already secured buyers from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, India and Turkey.

The absence of a stock market in Qatar and the small number of trading institutions, which did not exceed 12 at the end of 1994, have made sharedealing the lowest in the Middle East, brokers in the region said.

"Dealing in Qatar is negligible compared to other Gulf states. Only a handful of institutions trade their shares and their value is very low. But it will likely be activated by the creation of the bourse," said Zuhayr Kaswani, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) stockbroker.

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Qatar is the fourth Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) state to set up an official exchange. Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain have active markets while the UAE is planning to open a floor and dealing in Saudi Arabia is conducted through the most sophisticated bank network in the region.

Around 205 million shares were traded in the GCC markets last week, with a turnover of nearly 421 million dollars.

Oman

Bin-'Alawi on U.S. Embargo on Iran, Israeli Ties

JN0107060795 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Jun 95 p 11

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Hasan Yusuf al-'Imran and 'Isam Hashish; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-ITTIHAD] Your Excellency, how do you view the stands of the region's states toward the trade embargo the United States has imposed on Iran, and for which it seeks to mobilize international support?

[Bin-'Alawi] We want to understand the reasons behind this U.S. decision, and which encouraged President Clinton to issue an executive order to implement the U.S. embargo. However, I believe it is in our interest not to do as he does, for Iran is a neighboring country, and there are huge interests among the Gulf states which we cannot ignore. I know that the U.S. side knows this full well. It does not expect the Gulf states to implement this embargo, and it should not expect such a thing.

For our part, we seek, along with our brothers in Iran, to guarantee security and stability in the region, and to work, through our means and contacts, to secure more chances of cooperation among people on both banks of the Gulf, the east bank and the west bank. This necessitates that governments take new effective and specific measures to make this cooperation possible.

Undoubtedly, our brothers in Iran are fully aware of our deep interests with the West. No one in Iran denies this. We should safeguard these interests without harming our interests with Iran. These issues are clear to all parties. We are not in a hurry to adopt a stand against anyone, for differences will be settled soon and things will be back to normal.

[AL-ITTIHAD] The Sultanate of Oman increased its contacts with Israel over the past period. However, it has recently reduced these contacts within the framework of an Arab move toward cutting back [tahdi'ah]. How do you view prospects of bilateral relations with Israel?

[Bin-'Alawi] The Omani-Israeli relations should not be viewed on the basis of escalating or cutting back. This is because relations take a completely different form. We believe that the wheel of peace is moving, the march began in Madrid, and the end is known in advance; namely, to achieve peace with Israel. I believe that no one disagrees with this approach. There are two tracks in the peace process: The bilateral talks track, and the multinational talks track. The objective of the first track is to settle differences between Israel and its direct neighbors as what has thus far happened with Jordan, and relatively, with the PLO which has taken the form of a state which created a new state of affairs which grows continuously. This track is taking its position and is playing its role. We should support and strengthen it, and help our brothers on this track achieve the aspired objectives.

The other track, the multinational talks track, was meant to open channels of communications between the Arab states which do not have direct borders with Israel, and Israel. This what we do. So, we should not deal with this issue from the angle of escalation and cutting back. Those who say there is cutting back, perhaps do not know that I met with Shim'on Peres in Washington a few days ago.

In this regard, I would like to say that Israel is a recognized state with which we negotiate. Some of us trade and cooperate with it. We should not imitate the ostrich. Perhaps, there are people, whether on the press level, or at the Arab League, who call for adopting a hardline policy against Israel with the hope of achieving something. However, this has become something of the past since the Madrid conference. These are only slogans which now have no influence on political calculations in the capitals which contribute to the peace process.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Do you not think that it is necessary to define the principles and objectives on whose basis Oman and the other Arab countries would develop their relations with Israel?

[Bin-'Alawi] The principles are clear through the track of the multilateral talks with Israel. We are fully aware that negotiations are bound to yield results. Naturally, you cannot take part in the multilateral talks if you are not ready to normalize your relations with Israel. Thus, the question is: When will this normalization take place? The answer differs from one Arab country to another. There is no need for all the Arab states to normalize their relations with Israel at the same time. Each country has its own circumstances and preoccupations. Even the countries that are neighboring to Israel have followed this pattern. Egypt was the first,

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and then Jordan, in view of its circumstances and the nature of its problem with Israel. The Palestinians are also on the same road according to their own view and domestic circumstances. Syria and Lebanon are also doing the same. So I don't see why we have to say that one state has made progress in this field while another is lagging behind. Naturally, each country has its own circumstances, and we appreciate this very well.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Many countries have linked their steps to the achievement of progress on the tracks of Arab negotiations?

[Bin-'Alawi] Progress is inevitable and is absolutely irreversible. Neither the Israelis nor the Arabs can retreat now. [passage omitted]

Minister Discusses Aims of Desalination Center

MM3006151995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun 95 p 5

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Brussels "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Yahyawi] To begin with, what did you discuss in Brussels with European Commission Vice President Maneul Marin?

[Bin-'Alawi] The talks focused primarily on the project to set up a scientific research center for the desalination of sea water. We met with a good response from the European side, and experts are going to meet to find a mechanism through which the EU will effectively contribute to setting up this center. The Europeans believe that such a center is important for the progress of the peace process, especially with regard to the water problem, which is a strategic matter for stability in the Middle East.

[Al-Yahyawi] Are you asking the EU to contribute the same financial share contributed by the Sultanate of Oman, Israel, and the United States for the center?

[Bin-'Alawi] That has not been determined. However, I understood from the European Commission vice president that the EU attaches great importance to the water issue in the Middle East. And the Europeans wish to contribute more than others, because they believe that they are a major party to the peace process in the Middle East.

[Al-Yahyawi] What does the establishment of this center — with Israel's participation — in the Omani capital mean?

[Bin-'Alawi] The aim of the establishment of this center is to conduct technical and technological research for the benefit of the Middle East region as a whole. That is, with the help of the developed states, which have advanced technologies in this sphere. The objective is to rely on a stable source of water at a reasonable cost, as desalinated sea water will be used not only in homes but in agriculture as well. We hope to be able to come out with positive results within the next 10 years to achieve this aim.

[Al-Yahyawi] Are there consultations and Omani coordination with the other Gulf region countries to get them to join you in this project?

[Bin-'Alawi] The project is offered to the international community as a whole, since studies have been conducted in the framework of the water committee arising from the multilateral negotiations.

[Al-Yahyawi] Is the project the outcome of Omani-Israeli rapprochement, or is it a contribution from you to advance the peace process in the Middle East?

[Bin-'Alawi] It is a model of cooperation within the peace process framework. Its aims are more scientific than political. However, it will also help to establish cooperation and bring the various political views closer.

[Al-Yahyawi] What is your opinion of what happened recently in Qatar, where Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani assumed power?

[Bin-'Alawi] That is an internal Qatari affair. His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah was given a pledge of allegiance as the country's amir. And we in Oman respect and support this step, which has enjoyed the confidence of the Qatari people and the ruling family in the State of Qatar.

[Al-Yahyawi] Do you believe that foreign policy in Qatar is likely to see some changes, or will it remain as it stands?

[Bin-'Alawi] Qatari policy has always been positive and open, and we hope that it will continue thus in the future.

Saudi Arabia

New Movement Threatens Regime, 'Foreign Forces'

MM0307150995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jul 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Unknown Saudi Movement Hints at Carrying Out Its Threats by Hitting Foreign Forces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — The "Islamic Change Movement" [harakat al-taqhyyir al-islamiyah] has warned that it will soon begin to carry out its threats by attacking senior princes and foreign forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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In a statement distributed to the press, a copy of which AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has received, the movement said that the date specified in the first statement, namely Wednesday 39 Muharram 1416 H, corresponding to 28 June 1995, is the deadline. And the movement will use all available means to move the "crusader forces" off the peninsula of Islam.

The statement added that the movement has been making preparations since the first statement. However, it does not mean that the operations will be carried out immediately after the deadline. The launch of operations depends on the movement's judgment, and the deadline set for the forces is an ultimatum, after which these forces will become a legitimate target.

This is not the first time an unknown organization has issued such warnings. Similar statements have been issued before, but the quarters behind them proved ineffective.

The statement carried the emblem "the Islamic Change Movement - Jihad Wing in the Arabian Peninsula" and a slogan saying "No Pride for Us Without Islam." It is the movement's second statement.

As is known, a group of more than 100 clerics — among them Salman al-'Awdah, Safar al-Hawali, and Yahya al-Yahya — were arrested because of their criticisms of the regime in the kingdom. They are still being held without trial.

Saudi sources in London have said that the statement in question could be the result of a split in the opposition Islamic Movement, since an extremist wing is urging the abandonment of peaceful opposition and urging the use of violence.

Recent Activities of Council of Ministers Outlined

Council Discusses Bosnian Situation

LD0307193395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 3 Jul (SPA) — The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting at the al-Salam palace this afternoon, under the chairmanship King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

At the end of the session, his excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the information minister, gave the following statement to SPA:

After a comprehensive review of all the political and media reports concerning the latest and current developments on the Arab and Islamic levels in the security and political fields, and out of the interest of the custodian of the two holy mosques in the events in a number of Islamic regions that are still subjected to aggressions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, King Fahd spoke again about the continuation of the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The target of these efforts is to support the Islamic causes at various international meetings with the aim of reaching an end to the bloodshed carried out against Muslims, protect their legitimate rights, and enable them to live a dignified life in security and stability. [passage omitted]

Debates Current Issues

LD2606201795 Riyadh SPA in English 1930 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 26, SPA — The Council of Ministers held here today its regular session under the chairmanship of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The monarch briefed the cabinet on the important political and security developments at the Arab and international levels, said Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir following the meeting of the cabinet in a statement to SPA.

The monarch highlighted the constructive role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the various spheres as well as its intensive efforts to tackle and support the Islamic issues and realize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region in line with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the Arab and Islamic summit conferences in this regard, added al-Sha'ir.

Commenting on fraternal ties binding the kingdom and Egypt, the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz pointed out that he telephoned President Husni Mubarak at noon today to congratulate him on his safe return to his homeland following the failed malicious attack on his motorcade this morning in the Ethiopian capital.

Al-Sha'ir said the council reviewed reports by ministers who were on missions abroad during the past few days. Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal submitted a brief report about the outcome of his visit to Turkey. He also praised the hospitality accorded to him by the Turkish president and government, which reflect their appreciation of the custodian of the two holy mosques. He also pointed to the Turkish officials' complete understanding of the issues he probed with them.

The council listened to a report by the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazir about the 98th OPEC ministerial conference, which was held on June 20 to discuss the large production by non-OPEC members which is flooding the market at the present

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time, thereby negatively affecting prices. The report also touched on environmental laws adopted in consumer countries and the taxes imposed on oil products which have a negative impact on the demand for oil and the revenues of producers.

Minister Nazir said he discussed with Norwegian officials the possible cooperation with the kingdom in these fields to guarantee their joint interests. He added that he sensed a firm desire to cooperate with Saudi Arabia and exchange views with her.

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Muhammad al-Fayiz said the most important issues discussed at the international labour conference which was held in Geneva a few days ago, included a program to upgrade labour and international labour agreements as well as international labour standards in various countries.

He said he gave prominence to the Saudi labour policies at the conference and at meetings of ad-hoc committees, and focused on the kingdom's commitment to the international agreements it has approved.

Finally, the council reviewed some issues on the agenda and made the following decisions: First, approval of the renewal of the commercial and economic agreement between the kingdom and Lebanon, which was signed in 1391 h, for one year as of 26-1-1416 h. Second, approval of having the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone sign a memorandum of understanding about the continental under-sea cable number 3. The ministry is to examine the possibility of connecting this cable to the eastern coast. Third, approval of five appointments on the 14th administrative grade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Yemen

Egypt's Foreign Minister Meets Leading Officials

Musa Meets With President Salih

JN0507075695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In statements to the Egyptian media after receiving brother Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday, who conveyed to him a message from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, has emphasized the strength of Yemeni-Egyptian relations.

He said Yemeni-Egyptian relations are historical and warm and do not face any problem, adding: We are satisfied with these relations.

He said the message which brother Muhammad Salim Ba-Sindwah, the adviser to the president of the republic, conveyed to President Husni Mubarak congratulated him on his safety following what happened in Addis Ababa.

Asked for his view on the Arab world in the next stage, the president said: We hope to work together within one framework to restore Arab solidarity. Responding to another question on his efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation during his visit to Saudi Arabia and during his contacts, and his telephone call with President Mubarak, the president said: In fact, there was a kind of coolness in relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, but the contacts continued. I believe that the visit constituted a good start for the Yemeni-Saudi relations and Arab relations as well. It has cleared much of the fog and opened new horizons for dealing within the one Arab house.

Asked how Yemen views terrorism and acts of violence, the president stressed that Yemen condemns all forms of terrorism and works for fighting and denouncing it with all means. He said terrorism poses a threat not only to Egypt or Yemen, but the Arab nation in general, as well as to international peace.

Musa Delivers Message From Mubarak

JN0407194895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received brother 'Amr Musa, Egypt's foreign minister, who conveyed to the president a message from his brother Egypt's President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerning the brotherly ties, joint cooperation, and regional, Arab, and international issues and developments of concern to the two sisterly countries and the Arab nation — particularly [words indistinct] restore Arab solidarity and support the regional peace process.

They also discussed several issues and developments of concern to the brotherly ties between our country and Egypt and the means to promote the march of joint cooperation between the two countries to open broader horizons that would help the interests of the two brotherly peoples.

The president asked the brother Egyptian foreign minister to convey his greetings to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as well as his congratulations on his escape from the evil attack which targeted him in Addis Ababa. He underlined our country's principled position which denounces and fights terrorism, regardless of its form and origin.

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The brother president also stressed our country's keenness to develop its relations and cooperation with the brothers in Egypt in view of the special historic ties between the two sisterly countries.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Abdu 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman, deputy foreign minister; Badr Hammam, assistant to the Egyptian foreign minister; and 'Adil Subhi, Egypt's ambassador to our country.

Musa, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani Meet

JN0407135195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani this morning received Egyptian Foreign Minister brother 'Amr Musa and his delegation.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed topics related to the development of brotherly bilateral relations and the various spheres of cooperation that will be discussed at the next meeting of the higher Yemeni-Egyptian Committee in September. Discussions also dealt with the Arab situation and the need to revive Arab solidarity. Regional and international issues were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman. On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by brother Ambassador Badr Hammam; Ambassador Ramzi 'Allan, director of the Arab East at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry; Nihad 'Abd-al-Latif, director of the foreign minister's office; and 'Adil Subhi, the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa.

Musa, al-Iryani Open Official Talks

JN0407172095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Official Yemeni-Egyptian talks opened at the Foreign Ministry this morning under brothers Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

At the beginning of the session, the deputy prime minister welcomed the guest minister and his delegation. He expressed our country's happiness with this visit, which falls within the context of the distinguished bilateral relations. He extended congratulations on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's escape from the recent sinful and treacherous attempt on his life. He stressed our country's condemnation of terrorism with all its forms.

For his part, brother 'Amr Musa said he is happy to visit Yemen and expressed appreciation for the hospitality he has been accorded in Yemen. He underlined the deep brotherly and historical relations between the two countries,

Afterward, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations. They discussed the preparations for the meeting of the higher Yemeni- Egyptian committee, which will hold its meetings under the two countries' prime ministers. The discussions also dealt with the Arab and regional situation and developments. The two sides agreed to continue coordination and consultations in all that contributes to achieving reconciliation, restoring Arab solidarity, bypassing the residues of the second Gulf war and the damages that have resulted from it. The two sides underlined the need for Iraq's implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and for ending the suffering of the Iraqi people. The two sides also stressed the importance of stability in the Horn of Africa through cooperation among all parties at that region.

Discussions also touched on the Middle East peace process. In this regard, the two sides stressed their support for the steps aiming at establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace, which will be achieved only through Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's attaining of all their legitimate rights to the establishment of their Palestinian state.

The session was attended on the Yemeni side by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman and senior ministry officials. It was attended on the Egyptian side by brothers Badr Hammam, deputy foreign minister; 'Adil Subhi, Egyptian ambassador to Yemen; and the Egyptian delegation accompanying the Egyptian foreign minister.

Al-Iryani, Musa Hold News Conference

JN0507072395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The final round of talks between the Republic of Yemen and the Arab Republic of Egypt was held at the Foreign Ministry this evening under the cochairmanship of brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and brother 'Amr Musa, Egyptian foreign minister.

At the end of this round of talks, a cooperation and coordination agreement was signed between the Foreign Ministries of the two fraternal states.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said: I am happy to be in Yemen at a time when the Yemeni people are celebrating the anniversary of the defeat of the secessionist bid, which consecrated Yemeni unity. He

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added: Yemeni unity is a positive factor in the history of Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula, and all Arabs. Hence, we commend all these positive developments. We are happy with them.

'Amr Musa's remarks were made at a news conference he, along with brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held at the Foreign Ministry. The news conference was attended by correspondents of local, Arab, and foreign news media.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed his country's happiness with the agreement reached between the governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which promotes the interests of the two countries. He hoped that all inter-Arab border disputes will be resolved in a manner that promotes the interests of the parties concerned.

Speaking about his visit to our country, brother 'Amr Musa said that the visit was positive and fruitful although it was brief. He added that the visit came within the context of the good and special relationship between the two fraternal countries. Moreover, the visit aimed to prepare for the meetings of the Higher Joint Yemeni-Egyptian Committee, which are due to convene in September.

The Egyptian minister said that an agreement on mutual coordination between the foreign ministries of the two countries was signed today. He described the agreement as a good start for the two countries' efforts, which aim to effect bilateral coordination in various areas.

When asked about the restoration of Arab solidarity, brother 'Amr Musa said that there is a growing awareness of the need for solidarity, as well as a convergence of Arab views in this regard. This could help improve inter-Arab ties, he maintained. He noted the need to properly address the new Arab and international changes through coordination among all Arab sides.

At the news conference, 'Amr Musa pointed out that serious moves have recently been made within the context of Arab solidarity, including the joint stand on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In reply to a question on Egypt's desire to join the Arab Maghreb Union, the Egyptian minister indicated that this desire is dictated by the need to crystallize a common Arab stand in North Africa on all the issues facing North Africa.

Asked about the meetings of the Higher Joint Yemeni-Egyptian Committee, brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that it has been agreed to thoroughly examine all the topics that need to be discussed by the prime ministers of both countries. He indicated that there are very wide opportunities for multifaceted cooperation between our country and the Arab Republic of Egypt. God willing, efforts will be made to ensure that the bilateral cooperation and coordination will not be confined to the two governments and official agencies. Such cooperation and coordination must also involve the trade and industrial sectors in both countries. Additionally, they must produce an exchange of goods. Citizens will hopefully feel the effect of such a relationship.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his delegation left Sanaa this evening at the conclusion of an official two-day visit to our country, during which he relayed a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also held talks with state officials on fraternal bilateral ties and the means to promote and enhance them.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, brother 'Amr Musa described as successful and positive the outcome of his meetings and talks with Yemeni leaders and officials.

The Egyptian foreign minister was seen off at the airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman, deputy foreign minister; the chief of Protocol; Foreign Ministry officials; representatives of the Presidential Office's Protocol; brother 'Adil Subhi, Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa; brother 'Ali Muhammad al-Quthaybi, head of the diplomatic corps in Sanaa; and the brother heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited in Sanaa.

Salih Stresses Strong Relations

NC0507064295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA) — Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani has affirmed that Egypt plays a vanguard role in Arab solidarity and cooperation. He described Egypt as the big sister.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR newspaper published today, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani expressed his overwhelming joy over the escape of President Husni Mubarak from the sinful assassination attempt and his safe return to Egypt.

He said that Egyptian-Yemeni relations are old and eternal and that Egypt has a place in the heart of every Yemeni. We are seeking to develop cooperation and relations in every field, he said.

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The Yemeni prime minister affirmed that the meeting of the joint higher committee between Egypt and Yemen will reflect positively on the two people. He pointed out that during the meeting, they will discuss all issues pertaining to economic and trade cooperation between Egypt and Yemen.

GPC Concludes Meeting, Issues Final Statement

JN0207153595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth general congress of the General People's Congress [GPC] concluded its work at the 22d May Hall of the War College in Sanaa today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and leader of the GPC. The congress convened from 25 June to 2 July under the slogan: "The Fifth General Congress Is a New Move To Develop the Organizational Structure, Promote Democracy, and Build New Yemen."

At the beginning of its final session, the GPC listened to a report from the election committee containing the names of the 501 brothers and sisters who were elected by the congress as members of the Standing Committee.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and leader of the GPC, delivered a speech in which he hailed the efforts and deliberations that took place during the congress, which has endorsed important documents on charter amendments, the political working program, and the bylaws of the GPC. [passage omitted]

The final statement issued by the fifth general congress stresses the importance of activating the Culture Law and promoting freedom of culture in spreading national awareness and revealing facts in an objective and responsible way. The statement stresses the need to adhere to the principle of economic freedom and urges the government to find safe outlets for the financial and economic situation by taking economic measures. [passage omitted]

In the field of foreign policy, the fifth general congress stressed its support for efforts to strengthen brotherly relations between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also praised the level of relations between our country and the fraternal Sultanate of Oman and believes that the border agreement between the two countries is an example that should be followed to solve border problems between the brothers and the neighbors.

While the congress stresses the need for the Iraqi Government to implement the Gulf crisis-related resolutions of the international legitimacy, it voices its deep fear and its extreme uneasiness about the tragic results of the continued overall embargo against Iraq and urges an end to that embargo.

The congress expressed its denunciation and condemnation of the sinful terrorist attempt against Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital, stressing its rejection of and its determination to fight all forms of terrorism by any side, out of its eagerness to see stability and peace in all countries of the world.

The fifth general congress urged the brothers in Egypt and Sudan to show wisdom and self-restraint and to give no chance to the enemies of the Arab nation who are trying to disrupt the Arab rank. It also called on all brothers to promote ties of cordiality and brotherhood in the Arab nation and to solve differences through brotherly dialogue and peaceful means.

The congress urged the international community to implement UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the continued Serb aggression against our Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The congress also voiced its anxiety about the continued bloody conflict and destructive war in Chechnya, appealing to the Russian Government to work to reach a just peaceful solution to the problem.

The fifth general congress of the GPC highly valued our country's policy, which is aimed at promoting our relations with the regional and international organizations, foremost of which are the Arab League, the United Nations, and the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference], and to project our country's support for the causes of freedom, justice, and peace.

Salih Discusses Saudi Visit, Economic Issues

JN3006173895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by the Saudi Newspaper AL-RIYAD published in the 29 June issue from "the News Follow-up" Feature — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-RIYAD] Your excellency has visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which many media sources agree was a successful visit. How successful was this recent visit to the kingdom?

[Salih] The success of the visit is embodied in the fact that it opened a new chapter in the historical relations between the Yemeni Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which were somewhat lukewarm during the Gulf war. It is regrettable that there was foreign media distortion, which wanted to harm these distinguished relations between the two neighborly and sisterly countries. This foreign media sought to reverse all

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facts. Despite the lukewarm relations, there was continuation between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. There was no estrangement, but there was some lukewarmness due to the dissemination of false information here and there, which tried to harm the distinguished bilateral relations. However, praise be to God, issues and facts became clear to the two countries' leaderships.

The visit was a success and meetings in the kingdom were fruitful. Our brothers in the kingdom, led by King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, were very hospitable and treated us with much respect. We frankly and clearly spoke about all issues of interest to both countries and our future relations. Many things became clear to us and to our brothers.

In general, we consider the visit successful and excellent by all standards. The people are beginning to feel the results of this visit, whether in terms of exchanging information or activating the joint committees. The economic, technical, and cultural cooperation committee is currently in the kingdom. The committee in charge of placing the landmarks specified in al-Ta'if agreement will shortly meet in Yemen. The committee charged with demarcating the rest of the borders, extending from Al-Tha'r mountain to [word indistinct] the two countries borders met ten days ago. This committee will resume its meetings based on what was agreed on between the two committees. Things are going well and we are completely satisfied with what has been reached between the two countries.

[AL-RIYAD] Many hopes were pinned on your excellency's meeting with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, in terms of enhancing understanding and cooperation between the two fraternal peoples. What are the most prominant issues discussed during that meeting.

[Salih] As I have said before, the meeting was characterized by frankness and clarity. We discussed all topics and issues that are of importance to the brotherly bilateral relations in a way that restores things to normal. King Fahd told me that he wants relations between our two countries to return to normal and even better than before, because the two neighbor countries have many common bonds between the two neighbor countries. On our part, we are determined to achieve this, God willing.

[AL-RIYAD] The memorandum of understanding which was signed between Yemen and the kingdom has opened the way for the committees' meetings from both sides. What topics are being tackled in these committees' meetings and what is the extent of seriousness in terms of reaching radical and final solution to the topics being discussed by these committees?

[Salih] During our presence in the kingdom, we took the initiative and proposed fixing a date for ending the meetings of the formed committees in accordance with the memorandum of understanding. Moreover, there were some parties, whether in Yemen or in the kingdom, or other parties which gave the brothers in the kingdom the impression that Yemen is procrastinating and that border talks will take a long time. We presented an initiative to our brothers in the kingdom that focuses on fixing dates for the committees in which the timeframe for these committees' meetings would not exceed 120 days to prove their seriousness and credibility and foil the attempts of those who want to fish in muddy waters. The committees are continuing their meetings and things are very normal. The final solution depends on the committees' meetings. I believe that the committee in charge of demarcating the remaining borders, which is the most important committee, will meet within 60 days. The [word indistinct] committee will hold its meetings within 15 days. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIYAD] How are you dealing now with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] which was your principal partner in the past?

[Salih] We deal with it as a party in the arena. We hope that it can rearrange its state of affairs, assess its past experience, and free itself from the practices of the past and start acting as an opposition party. At present, we deal with it in a positive manner and it enjoys all its rights and privileges and receives the financial allocations that are earmarked for the main parties. [passage omitted]

Generally speaking, we can say that the YSP is a nationalist unionist Yemeni party and we have no problems with it. The problem is with some of the influential leaders in the party. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIYAD] What about the Aden free zone and has work started in it?

[Salih] Several investors said they are interested in investing in the free zone. This area lies between the al-Sha'b city and Ra's 'Imran, including the airport. Implementation measures have actually started, and we have started to evacuate the military camps in it. Following my visit to Saudi Arabia, the concerned authorities received some 45 applications for investment in the Aden free zone.

[AL-RIYAD] From Saudi Arabia?

[Salih] There are Saudi investors too. There are applications for investment in the Socotra island. Five oil rigs will be received soon to drill for oil. These oil rigs will begin work in October. These oil rigs belong to one of the companies. Exploration for oil will begin on the

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island. Besides this, the island is a touristic attraction and one of the most beautiful places in the world. Socotra is one of the most beautiful Yemeni islands. It is a very beautiful island. God willing, we will complete the airport and the port on the island and it will have a flourishing economic future.

[AL-RIYAD] Mr. President, there is one trait that repeats itself with every new Yemeni government. These governments seek temporary solutions to problems and not lasting solutions. The economic factor could be the cause of this. Do you not believe that the time has come for your era to be linked with a clear government policy in tackling domestic and foreign issues instead of the conciliatory formula the Yemeni Government has adopted in the past?

[Salih] Yemen's foreign policy is clear whether on the regional, Arab, Islamic, and international level. Yemen's stands are explicit, declared, and principled. We support what is right and oppose what is wrong, whether a brother, relative, or friend is involved. Our stands are clear. Yemen has paid a price for such an explicit policy. An example is its stand on the war decision at the United Nations during the Gulf crisis. We paid a price for this stand. Yemen supported all the UN decisions on the Gulf crisis except the decision to wage war. Our viewpoint was that war will lead to disaster and will bring about negative results on the entire Arab homeland. This is what actually took place. Every Arab citizen suffered from this war. Every Arab country paid a price. We supported a peaceful solution, and we were of the opinion that the problem could be solved. That's why we rejected war.

[Al-RIYAD] Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity.

[Salih] Thank you.

United Arab Emirates

Further Reportage on Visit by Algeria's Zeroual

Zeroual Addresses Algerian Community

LD2906223795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual addressed the Algerian community in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] when he received them in Abu Dhabi this morning. He briefed them on the situation in Algeria, which has been going through a difficult stage dominated by the phenomenon of violence and terrorism which is alien to the traditions of our society and the teachings of our religion.

Zeroual also talked about the efforts of the state aimed at realizing the objectives of the transitional stage which are basically to safeguard the political and security conditions, realize the recovery of the national economy, and bring about a return to the democratic electoral track.

Talking about the presidential elections, the head of state said that we are busy providing all the conditions to hold them on time. As to the economic situation, the head of state declared that the work of the state here lies within the program drawn up by the government and aimed at stabilizing and reviving the national economy. He recalled the role of the Algerian community abroad in the recovery of the national economy and in contributing to it through their qualifications and skills, especially at this tough time through which the country is passing.

Joint Statement Issued

JN2906175195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jun (WAKH) — The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Algeria have called for initiatives aimed at achieving Arab reconciliation based on objective and realistic foundations bolstering joint Arab action and supporting the Arab nation's negotiatory position in the service of its peoples' interests.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual stressed in a press statement issued today at the conclusion of the Algerian president's visit to the UAE their condemnation of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, deeming it a phenomenon alien to the traditions of the societies and the instructions of tolerant Islam.

The two leaders stressed the importance of achieving a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East on all tracks on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. They stressed that peace must lead to full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to enabling the Palestinian people to restore all their legitimate rights, including their right to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. The two sides also stressed the importance of coordination and consultations between the two countries in all fields, including oil, in the service of their interests and to bolster joint Arab action.

In this context, according to the statement, the Algerian side reiterated its support for the UAE's legitimate demands to restore sovereignty over the three islands

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— Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. It also supported the UAE steps in this regard.

The statement stressed the need for attaching special attention to establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. They also stressed the need for Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to bring its nuclear installations under the inspection system supervised by the Atomic Energy Agency. The two sides supported the Libyan efforts to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the Lockerbie problem within the framework of respect for the Libyan national sovereignty and the principles of international law and international legitimacy. They called on the UN Security Council to study the proposals included in the relevant Arab League Council's resolutions.

The UAE and Algerian presidents stressed the importance of Arab- African cooperation in all fields and of activating its institutions to bolster the overall Arab-African relations to serve the joint Arab-African interests.

The two presidents underlined the need for maintaining the important role of the Nonaligned Movement on the international level to support peace, stability, and development. They hoped that the summit due to be held in Colombia in October 1995 will achieve concrete results regarding the issues of interest to the Nonaligned states. The two presidents also stressed continued coordination between the two countries.

The presidents expressed their concern over the exacerbating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They condemned the brutal Serbian practices against the Bonsian people. They urged the international community to swiftly shoulder its responsibilities toward the implementation of pertinent international resolutions.

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Spokesman Denounces U.S. Team's Kurdistan Visit

JN0307193095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA) — Iraq has said that U.S. intervention is primarily responsible for complicating the situation in northern Iraq and making it tragic.

Commenting on the entry of a U.S. delegation into northern Iraq and its meeting with the parties of the two agents, [Jalal] Talabani and [Mas'ud] Barzani, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said: U.S. interference in the domestic affairs of northern Iraq has had deep negative effects on our people in the Autonomous Region and on their daily life.

It was alleged in the news that the U.S. delegation sought to settle the differences and stop the fighting that has been going on between the gangs of the two agents.

The Iraqi spokesman said the U.S. delegation's presence in northern Iraq is a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and a clear violation of international norms. This is also blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The spokesman stressed that the delegation's entry reflects the U.S. Administration's determination to pursue a policy that is hostile to Iraq, both its Arabs and Kurds. This policy will only lead to further chaos and instability in the region. This will have an effect on all the countries of the region and their security and prosperity and will only serve the illegitimate colonialist and Zionist objectives in the region.

The spokesman denounced the U.S. blatant aggressive policy against Iraq, adding: While strongly denouncing this antagonistic policy toward Iraq, the Government of the Republic of Iraq asserts that the only way to address the deterioration in the north and return law, order, and normal life to it is by stopping the foreign interference in northern Iraq and its domestic affairs so that the authority of the state can prevail under Iraq's unity and sovereignty. This will achieve stability and security for our great people.

Daily Expects U.S. 'Pressure' To Continue Embargo

JN0407154695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1125 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA) — An Iraqi political writer has expected the U.S. Administration to fabricate problems and raise certain issues to prevent the UN Security Council from adopting a resolution to lift the oil embargo in accordance with Paragraph 22 as a first step on the road to ending all forms of the unjust, unfair embargo.

In an article published by AL-'IRAQ today, Nuri Najm al-Marsumi says the U.S. Administration is trying to pressure and mislead the world nations by raising issues that are unrelated to the UN Security Council resolutions, which the U.S. Administration considers the basis for dealing with the question of the embargo imposed on Iraq after it fulfilled its commitments in accordance with these resolutions.

He adds that the U.S. Administration is seeking to turn the autonomous region into a base from which it can stage aggression against Iraq and interfere in its domestic affairs and is using the military bases in Turkey to protect its aggressive interventions.

He notes the attempts to dig up the old colonialists files and revive the extinct English "divide and rule" tactic to deal with the people. The suspect U.S. trumpets, he says, started to talk about Iraqi society in such a way that constitutes an exposed attempt to spread the seeds of sedition and division by taking advantage of the circumstances of the unfair economic embargo which were created by the people who own and finance these trumpets.

He stresses that every Iraqi now understands the games of the Americans and their agents in the region. Every Iraqi also understands very well the nature of the suspect regimes that seek protection from the foreign fleets and who are making threats against the Iraqi people and their dear homeland. The Iraqis' experience with the occupiers and their methods enables them to read between the lines and understand the evil intentions behind stirring racial, tribal, religious, and sectarian fanaticisms.

Concluding his article, the author says: The last few days of the embargo may be full of events and conflicts because the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys will not accept defeat as easily as some people think. Instead, they will try to mobilize all their reserves at the last minute.

France Declines To Receive Tariq 'Aziz in Paris

NC0407080795 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic
28 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — AL-ANWAR has learned from diplomatic sources in Paris that the French authorities have declined to receive Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz right now and have proposed that he postpone his visit.

French businessmen and representatives of the French oil company "A. Akitan" [name of company as published] have arranged the visit by the Iraqi official to

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Paris, hoping to open a small diplomatic window between Baghdad and the new French Government, particularly as Alain Juppe supports a partial lifting of the ban on the sale of Iraqi oil in light of Iraq's compliance with much of the UN Security Council resolutions. But France's calculations and its relations with Gulf states and the United States do not permit any breach of the international consensus.

'Aziz visited Paris last year during the government of Edouard Belladur and with the encouragement of Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

Saddam's Forces Suppressing Opposition in al-Ramadi

LD0307211195 Tehran IRNA in English 2047 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz, Kuozestan Prov., July 3, IRNA — During the last few days some battalions of a unit called Saddam's Fadayean (those ready to die for Saddam), equipped with the heavy weapons such as tanks and missiles, have been dispatched to the al-Ramadi city in Al-Anbar province of Iraq to suppress the opposition, said an Iraqi opposition source on Monday [3 July].

According to the source the "Saddam's Fadayean" group, founded in 1994 by the order of Saddam Husayn and headed by his son, have always been famous as a repressive force.

People in the Ramadi city recently, in an anti-government uprising, killed some government officials.

Opposition 'Collapsing' Amid 'Internal Rivalries'

LD0107105895 London THE GUARDIAN in English 1 Jul p 1

[Report by Leslie Plommer and Karen Dabrowska]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq's main opposition coalition is collapsing, a casualty of internal rivalries and recriminatio...

The Iraqi National Congress (INC) — a magnet for Central Intelligence Agency covert action funds, and the biggest grouping of parties seeking to topple President Saddam Husayn — has fallen apart just three years after it was founded.

The INC's London office is unable to produce a tally of members. But of the 19 parties listed as members less than two years ago, seven have withdrawn or frozen their memberships

The two main Kurdish parties which once formed the coalition's bedrock are locked in an armed conflict that has claimed 3,000 lives in northern Iraq in less than a year.

The head of the INC's executive council, Ahmed Chalabi [name as published], has held a series of meetings in London to try to salvage the organisation.

Critics accuse him of turning the INC into the "Ahmed Chalabi party", and forming a private inner circle without reference to the body's national assembly or executive council

But the inherent problems of the INC go beyond Dr Chalabi. Behind the image furnished by its plush London offices and high- profile meetings with world leaders, the coalition's member groups have increasingly emerged as selfish, mistrustful and jealous.

Cuts in the CIA's covert action budget are also suspected of contributing to the INC's death throes.

The collapse will reverberate among policymakers in Britain and the United States-both of which formally back the INC.

BABIL Comments on Recent Attack Against Mubarak

Assails 'Corrupt' Egyptian Regime

JN0507101295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA) — The newspaper BABIL has said that the announcement by the Egyptian Mujahidin that they are responsible for the attempt to assassinate Husni Mubarak has robbed the regime of an important pretext to launch an aggression against Sudan.

In an article published today, the paper said: By shuffling the cards, the Egyptian regime has shown that it is confused and politically corrupt, that it suffers isolation and is trying to escape by committing more reckless acts.

The paper adds: Egypt's accusations against Sudan reveal premeditated designs against that country and is a means of looking for pretexts to justify a military aggression beginning with Hala'ib.

The paper said: The Egyptian regime's accusations that Ethiopian officials are accomplices in the assassination attempt reflect the immoral nature of this regime and its head because Ethiopia was the host country for the African summit.

BABIL said: We have never heard of a host country that makes its own territory a trap to hunt its guests by those who oppose them. However, everything is possible in

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the political lexicon of the Egyptian regime which is the heir to the al-Sadat regime, including instigations against Iraq, participation in the 30-state aggression, and imposing and continuing the blockade on Iraq.

Promises 'More Surprises' for Mubarak

JN0307185295 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 27 Jun 95 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "An Escape Scandal of a Fleeing Deer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Death quickly pursued Husni Mubarak, Egypt's dictator, to Ethiopia. He went to Ethiopia to attend the African summit with his head full of instructions dictated by the official in charge of intelligence at the American Embassy in Cairo. He was dreaming that the presidents would give him a standing ovation and that he would be in the limelight. However, his wishes did not come true because some patriotic rebels were waiting for him outside Addis Ababa Airport and showered with bullets his armored car, which he brought with him by plane from Egypt. He was so extremely terrorized that he lost his "balance as president," thus he made a decision that does not befit any president, that is, to return to Egypt and flee Ethiopia.

Yesterday's incident has proven a number of facts. First, that Husni Mubarak lacks to a scandalous degree a major characteristic of a president, namely, self-respect, which should behoove him to face up to, and not escape from, serious and sudden incidents. He escaped just as deers do when they feel the presence of wolves. He forgot all the dictates of the experts who teach him everything, starting from his wry smiles and ending with his stale jokes. The second fact is that executioners will not escape the punishment of peoples because the blood of victims cries for revenge and it never stops crying until the criminal is punished.

The third, and not the last, fact is that treason will never escape scot free, even if America is supporting the traitors, because America is too weak to control peoples, rebels, and lovers of freedom. Husni Mubarak has sold Egypt, Palestine, and Iraq to the al-Sabah and Sa'ud families, to the Zionist entity, and to America. So, does he expect anything other than sanctioning the shedding of his blood after he sanctioned the shedding of the blood of the Iraqis, Egyptians, and Palestinians. There is a proverb that says: Whoever does injustice first is to blame and whoever knocks the door will hear a reply. So, Mubarak, wait until tomorrow, for it has in store for you more surprises from your many victims. America, should it continue to exist, will not protect you, rather it will sell you.

Papers Warn Mubarak Not To Repress Egyptian Citizens

JN0407110195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0941 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA) — Two Iraqi newspapers have condemned the anti-Sudan threats made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The papers AL-QADISIYAH and BABIL add that by charging that Sudan was involved in the attempt on his life in Addis Ababa last week and in instigating anti-Sudan climates, Mubarak sought to delude the public into believing that he is still popular with the Egyptians, and that the masterminds of the attempt on his life were enemies of Egypt rather than its mujahidin.

The two papers stress that Mubarak's threats against Sudan reflect the treasonous role he is playing on the Arab and African scenes. These threats also expose his agentry as well as his submission to the imperialist and Zionist quarters and organs, which have conspired against the Arab nation.

In an analysis published today, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH expressed absolute certainty that the attempt on Mubarak's life in the Ethiopian capital was not a foreign scheme. Rather, this attempt, the paper adds, reflected an extension of the operations carried out by Egyptian mujahidin, which made a mockery of Mubarak's repressive organs throughout the Egyptian territory.

It is to be recalled that the Ethiopian authorities revealed last night that their security investigations showed beyond any shadow of a doubt that the perpetrators of the attack on Mubarak were Egyptians and not Sudanese nationals as Mubarak had earlier claimed.

The paper recalls the fate met by al-Sadat after the latter made the Egyptian people his enemies, humiliated them, and debased their history, and national identity, and after he sanctioned the desecration of the Egyptian soil by Zionists and by allowing the Zionist embassy to operate in lofty Cairo.

AL-QADISIYAH strongly warned Mubarak against going to excess in humiliating the Egyptian people and disavowing their aspirations and national identity, saying that nobody can silence the mujahidin, particularly since the whole Egyptian territory is now the scene of their jihad against the open-door policy, humiliation, disgrace, normalization, submission to the Zionist enemy's dictates, and efforts to fragment the Arab nation.

The paper addresses the purposes meant to be achieved by Mubarak's threats against Sudan, saying: With the help of his U.S. and Zionist masters, Mubarak seeks to

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isolate Sudan so that the Arabs and the world may be preoccupied with the new plot and forget, for a while, the sufferings of besieged Iraq.

For its part, the newspaper BABIL writes that the weird threats Mubarak has made against Sudan confirm that he is authorized by the United States to wage wars, practice terrorism, and create crises for the Arabs, and nobody else but the Arabs. In its editorial, BABIL adds that these threats reflect a contemptible degeneration. The paper adds that Mubarak's degeneration has qualified him to foment inter-Arab crises. The aim is to create legacies of hatred and provoke inter-Arab wars after Egypt ended all wars with the Zionist entity.

The paper says that it is only natural for Mubarak to play such a role. It recalls that had it not been for Mubarak, the glorious Arab League would not have passed its anti-Iraq resolutions, which were used by Bush to wage a war against Iraq after he aborted proposals aimed at achieving an inter-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Paper: Iran Playing Into 'Zionist, American Hands'

JN0507110995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA) — AL-THAWRAH says that the Iranian regime is always ready to be a party in any conspiracy against Iraq if this regime is not the planner and executer of that conspiracy.

In an article published today on the official reception by Tehran of two delegations representing the agents, Barzani and Talabani, the newspaper, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: It is clear that the Tehran regime has always been against the national rights of the Kurds in Iran, and the hands of this regime are stained with the blood of the Kurds who demand their people's rights.

The paper adds: It is not strange that Rafsanjani goes further in his attempts to show allegiance to Washington and aspires for a role in the new conspiratorial plan it is weaving against the Iraqi people after its other means to perpetuate the siege have been exhausted.

The newspaper says: It is not strange for the Iranian regime, which falsely pretends to be willing to normalize and improve relations with Iraq, to carry out the meanest and most evil tasks against Iraq, as it did during the chapter of treason.

It adds: The U.S. Administration will welcome any conspiratorial effort against Iraq regardless of its source, but Rafsanjani should not expect anything from Washington that benefits him in the struggle the Iranian resistance is waging against his regime.

It adds: Iraq, which monitors the Iranian regime's plotting against it, will find it difficult now and in the future to deal with an opportunist and hypocrital regime which says one thing and does the opposite without making an effort to justify this foolish policy that is playing into the Zionist and American hands.

Envoy: Vatican Against Embargo on 'Innocent' People

NC0407153295 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 4 Jul 95

[By Farouk Choukri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 4 (AFP) — The Vatican is opposed to economic sanctions when they punish innocent people in Iraq, an envoy of Pope John Paul II told Christian clerics at a conference here Tuesday [4 July].

"The consistent position of the Holy See has been that such measures should be temporary and always accompanied by dialogue, that they should not be a means of war nor of punishment of a people," Cardinal Edward Cassidy said.

Cassidy joined clerics from 30 countries for the opening of a three-day conference partly aimed at seeking an end to the international sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

He called for a "control of the humanitarian consequences of such sanctions so that they can be corrected where necessary.

"The Holy Father follows events in Iraq very closely," he added.

Speaking of the "innocent victims of suffering" in Iraq, especially women and children, he said: "Be assured that His Holiness prays for the peoples of Iraq and that he is praying particularly that this gathering may be fruitful."

The patriarch of Iraq's Chaldean church, Monsignor Raphael Bidawid, meanwhile said the embargo is an "unjust and unprecedented measure" and urged Christians to "speak up to condemn it."

Iraq's minister of religious affairs, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Muhammad Salih, urged the conference to "take action to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people."

He said Christianity "supported peace, love and respect for others" even though the United States and Britain, who "claim to belong" to this religion, "put their interests above humanitarian concerns."

The delegates were to meet senior Iraqi officials and visit hospitals.

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Entitled "the church in the service of peace and humanity," the conference is aimed at "reaffirming Christian solidarity with the Iraqi people," one organizer said.

Also taking part in the conference are delegates form the Cyprus-based Middle East Council of Churches. The conference is organized by Iraqi churches and the ministry of religious affairs.

Around one million of Iraq's 18 million people are Christians.

Under UN resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and abide by long-term monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Sudanese Oil Minister Arrives To Promote Relations

JN0407111795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA) — Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Ahmad Karrar arrived here at dawn today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Karrar said that he is carrying a written message from Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with bilateral ties and the ways to promote them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples and the Arab nation, Karrar added.

Karrar indicated that his visit to Iraq comes within the context of the meetings of the joint ministerial committee formed by the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and the Sudanese Ministry of Energy and Mining. These meetings are held to promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of oil and energy and to review what has been implemented of the agreement signed between the two ministries in this regard.

Denies Egyptian 'Charges'

JN0407120895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA) — Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Ahmad Karrar has denied the Egyptian regime's charges about Sudanese involvement in the recent assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the Sudanese minister, who arrived in Baghdad at dawn today, stressed that the assassination attempt against the head of the Egyptian regime, the current incidents in Egypt, and the attempted assassinations of several officials of the regime are internal Egyptian affairs. He said Sudan has nothing to do with them at all.

He added that the charges which the Egyptian regime and its media propagate are a link in the chain of conspiracies targeting Sudan and its people to undermine their steadfastness. He said the announcement by the Ethiopian Government last night about the identity of the perpetrators of the assassination attempt which said that they are Egyptians proved what the Sudanese Government had said and refuted the allegations of the Egyptian regime.

The Sudanese minister condemned the recent Egyptian provocations on the Egyptian-Sudanese borders represented by the aggression carried out by Egyptian armed forces inside the Sudanese border in Hala'ib. He said this was an unjustified aggression whose aim is to escalate tension between Egypt and Sudan.

He emphasized that Sudan is eager to maintain security and peace in the region and not to exasperate the situation with Egypt in order to ensure security and safety of the two fraternal peoples, and said his government shows self-restraint.

Addresses Technical Cooperation

JN0407170295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA) — Official Iraqi-Sudanese talks opened at the Oil Ministry today.

The Iraqi side at the talks was headed by Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, oil minister, while the Sudanese side was headed by Navy-Brigadier Salah-al-Din Ahmad Karrar, minister of energy and mining.

The talks dealt with oil cooperation between the two sisterly countries and ways of strengthening the ties of technical cooperation and implementing the bilateral agreements signed between the two countries in this field.

The talks were attended by the two under secretaries of the Oil Ministry and a number of ministry officials.

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Rabin: Redeployment Linked to PLO Covenant Amendment

TA0407191495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel would not implement the second stage of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment unless the Palestinians amended their National Covenant within two months after the elections. Rabin said that a discussion would take place before 25 July on how to hold the elections in Hebron.

The prime minister noted that the second stage of redeployment would not be implemented before the middle of 1997. Rabin's remarks were reported by political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Peres, Rabin Address Labor MK's on Talks, Security

TA0307155695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While the guns roar, the talking continues in a bid to resolve both the conflict with Syria, which in some way is connected with Lebanon, and with the Palestinians. Having failed on Saturday night to meet their July 1 deadline, Peres and 'Arafat are to try again. And while this encounter is being arranged, Rabin and Peres tell their Labor colleagues in the Knesset what they have in mind for the West Bank. Everywhere in the West Bank, that is, except for Hebron. David Ze'ev has been talking with the politicians:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel intends to pull out from almost all of the West Bank Palestinian cities aside from Hebron under the terms of the agreement now in the works. He told the Labor caucus Israel will also leave Palestinian villages except those scattered along the periphery and leading up to Jerusalem. Those areas, Peres said, would represent Israel's military and settlement buffer.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the same forum that Israel would hand over Nabulus, Janin, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm without delay, because there is little or nor problem there of having to build bypass roads for Israelis. In the case of Ramallah and Bethlehem, the premier said, there are bypass problems, therefore the Israeli pullout from those cities would take place gradually, based on how fast bypass roads can be built.

Rabin referred to his meeting earlier in the day with local leaders from such places as Kefar Sava, Herzliyya, and Netanya, located near the border with the West Bank in the Sharon region. Rabin said he told them that among the possibilities is constructing a fence between those places and the Palestinian areas. But the prime minister told the Labor MK's [Knesset members] he would not go into detail on the timetable, neither concerning the stages of redeployment nor on building a fence. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Palestinian Agreement, Peace Talks

Nation Wants Guaranteed End to Hostilities

NC0507065995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel wants to establish peace with Syria and Lebanon in particular, after having done so with Egypt and Jordan, and now that it is on its way to doing so with the Palestinians.

He added in an interview with AL-AHRAM in its issue for today that Israel wants to guarantee that this would put an end to aggression in the Middle East. He added: We want all Middle Eastern countries to declare an end to hostility with Israel.

Peres claimed that the Arab League has not taken any positive resolution supporting peace ever since it issued a resolution supporting negotiations within the framework of the Madrid process. He claimed that the Arab League supported the Arab boycott decision and did not back the Palestinians except through protestations, according to what he said.

On the time needed to finalize the first stage of the redeployment of the Israeli forces, thus leading to Palestinian elections, Peres said that if things go as planned, elections might be held before the end of this year.

Answering a question on the scope of regional economic cooperation, the Israeli foreign minister said that there are actual projects in the private sector and that the problem that most people do not understand is that we are not proposing building a new Middle East, but that the Middle East should adopt stances that bring about a new world.

Views Status of Palestinian, Syrian Talks

BR3006131595 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 30 Jun 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Fiamma Nirenstein in Jerusalem; date not given: "The Strategist of the New Middle East" — first paragraph is LA STAMPA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — [passage omitted] [Nirenstein] At the moment, you have two sets of

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negotiations under way, both of them equally important: with the Syrians and the Palestinians. It sometimes looks as if the negotiations with the Syrians run the risk of putting those with the Palestinians in the shade. But when you wake up in the morning, which negotiations do you think of first?

[Peres] Without any shadow of doubt, the negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Nirenstein] Why?

[Peres] Because the situation there has almost reached a conclusion. We are close to the second agreement. It is done.

[Nirenstein] Do you mean that on 1 July, as promised, the dates for both the election in the Occupied Territories and the withdrawal of the Israeli army will be established?

[Peres] There may be a week or two delay, but that is certainly no catastrophe. Broadly speaking, the timetable will be respected... The main thing is to establish the matters of substance so that they will subsequently be a political success, as has been the case in Gaza.

[Nirenstein] Gaza still gives rise to a lot of anxiety and fear.

[Peres] But a mood full of hope is springing out of a state of historical depression. I have been greatly struck, over the last few days, by the landscape in Gaza, which has changed so greatly: More than 100 new buildings are redrawing the skyline. There are cafes full of people, good restaurants. Before the Oslo agreements, there were countless birds of ill omen that kept Gaza a well of wretchedness, a continuous source of terrorism. We saw it as a hopeless inferno. And yet there is hope, I have seen it with my own eyes, even though great economic investment is still needed.

[Nirenstein] Economic aid, and the same applies to the whole story of the Third World, has never had a fully determining influence on a country's political future. Why do you talk about it so often, and why do you believe that it can fundamentally change the fate of the Palestinians?

[Peres] Let us look at it the other way round: Without an economy, the Palestinian Authority cannot be built up, and the economy is always slower than the administration. Just think: Just a year has passed now, a very short time in politics, and yet there has been a leap ahead in the morale and strength of the Palestinian Authority, which has now succeeded in gaining much better control over its territory. Anyway, where should we place our faith? In past history or in the future? In the fetters of tradition or in development?

[Nirenstein] Troop withdrawal will soon begin. What will become of the settlers?

[Peres] There will not be a civil war. They can stay where they are. The problem is not their geographical position but, in general, relations between Palestinians and Jews. New relations bring new living conditions...

[Nirenstein] You underestimate the existing aggressivity.

[Peres] I do not underestimate it; I am going by present reality. There are 800,000 Israeli Arabs living in peace in Israel. There will be 220,000 Jews living on the West Bank as against 1,250,000 Palestinians. Relations will change. In order to survive, we have to free the land of desert, the sea of salt, and men of violence.

[Nirenstein] In your opinion, does the Palestinian people want to build up a democracy? It would be a complete novelty in the Arab world! And does 'Arafat not constitute something of an obstacle to this process?

[Peres] 'Arafat is the one who makes the decisions, who makes the final choices. He is the chosen leader of his people. Be that as it may, the elections will speak for themselves.

[Nirenstein] And will 'Arafat win? Many people say that would not be a good thing for the Palestinian future.

[Peres] It must never be forgotten that 'Arafat is the first Palestinian leader to reounce terrorism for peace talks.

[Nirenstein] When will there be a Palestinian state?

[Peres] I would talk rather in terms of a future Jordanian- Palestinian confederation.

[Nirenstein] Actually, 'Arafat always and only talks about a Palestinian state!

[Peres] Just five minutes after a Palestinian state comes into existence, the debate about creating a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will commence.

[Nirenstein] Let us move on to the second negotiating table: Syria. Even before the present generals' meeting in Washington, you stated that the Golan is Syrian territory. Is this not an odd way to behave in negotiations?

[Peres] Do you think that al-Asad does not know that Begin handed Sinai over to Egypt in exchange for peace? Has al-Asad never heard that, after 1967, we stated that we were ready to withdraw from all the occupied territories in exchange for peace? The Syrian president knows full well how matters stand. If

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anything, I have merely tried to make them plainer and clearer.

[Nirenstein] Your opposition is on the attack: It is saying that the Golan is vital to Israel.

[Peres] Our opposition is highly skilled at negotiating with itself, at making peace without Arabs.

[Nirenstein] Iran is the major exporter of Islamic terrorism, and, as of now, Israel's greatest sworn enemy. Why did al-Asad send his deputy there on an official visit right on the eve of the meetings?

[illegible] Al-Asad is playing with cards that are somewhat obsc[illegible] to our way of thinking. Nevertheless, it is with him, and with him in person, that we have to deal. There is no saying how long the journey will be.

[Nirenstein] How great is the threat of Islamic fundamentalism?

[Peres] It is immense. We are moving on from a phase in which there were enemies to one in which there is a problem. And it is a universal problem that affects the whole world. The threat is a dual one: economic and atomic. It would be a fatal error if the West failed to appreciate it and underestimated it, like the error made by the liberals — who generally want to look at things on the bright side — at the time of Hitler's rise to power.

[Nirenstein] How can a suicide terrorist who has already decided to die be thwarted?

[Peres] He may well have decided, but his parents have not, nor does he want them to die. Every means has to be attempted, both that of repression and that of welfare aid to a poor, and therefore more readily blackmailable, world, and also that of relations among the three religions, which have to rid their spiritual values of all territorial and political claims.

[Nirenstein] Is Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli's visit on 4 July important?

[Peres] Definitely: Italy can be a great help in the peace process. It can help us build infrastructures, viaducts, and canals. What is more, I have been in contact with Olivetti recently — [Olivetti CEO] De Benedetti is a good friend of mine — with a view to achieving a great dream of mine, the computerization of the Middle East. I am also on terms of personal friendship with Ms. Agnelli: During one of my visits to Rome, she invited me to a splendid gathering attended by Italian artists, which gave me great pleasure.

[Nirenstein] Why did you receive [former Prime Minister] Andreotti?

[Peres] Because he asked me to. In democracies, a man standing trial is not a condemned man. I have known him since he was under secretary at the Foreign Ministry in the fifties, when he made gestures of friendship that I cannot forget. You cannot accept someone when he is at the top, then turn your back on him later.

Interviewed on Syrian Track, Palestinians

TA2906175895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondents Shlomo Ganor and Kayid Zahir on 29 June — recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, what are your impressions from Washington following two days of discussions between Syria and Israel?

[Peres] The talks were successful both in content and atmosphere. They provided enough material in order to pursue additional talks between officers from the two countries which will probably be held in about two weeks. The talks helped to resolve the difficult problems on the agenda.

[Zahir] Mr. Peres, did the Israeli side receive the impression that a new wind is blowing from the Syrian side?

[Peres] There is a change. On the previous occasions, every time we said something about peace they attacked us. Today, the Syrian press and electronic media have clearly adopted a more positive approach with regard to the whole issue of peace.

[Zahir] What does this stem from in your opinion?

[Peres] It is the result of their understanding and assessment that Israel is serious. We were always serious, but now they have also reached that conclusion.

[Ganor] What should we expect this evening when the talks conclude?

[Peres] As I said before: for their continuation at the officers level within two weeks.

[Zahir] Mr. Peres, in your opinion is this new approach the result of the secret talks between Syria and Israel that everyone is talking about?

[Peres] There were no secret talks so it cannot be their result; however, the public, not secret, declarations that we made certainly contributed in this respect.

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[Ganor] Mr. Peres, what is the logic of discussing security arrangements before agreeing on the borders?

[Peres] The logic is that the security arrangements can influence the border lines. The better and tighter the security arrangements the more flexible one can be with regard to border lines.

[Ganor] But we are still arguing over the withdrawal lines?

[Peres] We have still not reached this issue. The delegation did not present any withdrawal lines. These lines will be decided upon by the political echelon at the appropriate time.

[Zahir] Meanwhile, the Syrians are insisting on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Peres] Yes, the Syrians are continuing to demand a full withdrawal.

[Zahir] And what is the Israeli position?

[Peres] For the time being, the Israeli position is to conduct a withdrawal on the Golan Heights without specifying its scope.

[Ganor] Perhaps Mr. Peres, you would like to clarify things with regard to the opposition leader's claims that he possesses an official IDF [Israel Defense Forces] document containing instructions to the chief of staff on concessions to the Syrians.

[Peres] I reiterate my contention that he formulated this document himself. This is not a document that the prime minister presented to the chief of staff; it is a paper composed by Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Ganor] But today's press presented the document in detail.

[Peres] It did not present the document; it presented a working paper which is merely one of many. This is stolen IDF property. Stealing a document is just the same as stealing equipment or weapons. This is a falsification, because neither the prime minister nor myself ever read this document. So how can it be a document of instructions? The very idea of writing that this is a document of instructions from the prime minister to the chief of staff is a fabrication by Binyamin Netanyahu. This never happened. True, a high-ranking IDF officer prepared a working paper. There are many such papers.

[Ganor] And has the person now in possession of the document committed a criminal offense?

[Peres] Yes, he has broken the law.

[Ganor] And does the government intend to put Binyamin Netanyahu on trial?

[Peres] We are first examining the matter from the legal viewpoint. You know that it is very difficult to prosecute Knesset members. They have parliamentary immunity. But we would never have done such a thing. Let us say that Binyamin Netanyahu gained possession of a secret document. Why did he publish it in the media? After all, representatives of the Syrian and Israeli Governments are conducting negotiations. Assuming that this document is designed for the internal use of the Israeli delegation — how dare you publish it? Where in the world have you ever heard of such a thing: to steal a document, to mislead the public into believing that it was written by the prime minister, and to publish it in the evening when both parties are sitting down to negotiate.

[Ganor] As for the content of the document itself, for example, with regard to the clause on the order of battle, the early warning stations?

[Peres] There is nothing there that was not known before. This document is couched in relatively cautious, almost philosophical language rather than in geographical terms. What can be learned from it?

[Zahir] Mr. Peres, if we are talking about a descent from the Golan Heights and not about withdrawal, and seeing as you have dismissed this document, then what is at the core of the talks currently under way between the Syrian and Israeli representatives in Washington?

[Peres] For example, the measures deemed necessary in order to give early warning of a surprise attack. What measures are necessary in order to guarantee such an early warning capability. There are many principles that can be thoroughly examined before any lines are demarcated.

[Zahir] Are there no proposals for an initial withdrawal from part of the Golan Heights as was the case with Gaza First.

[Peres] We are not talking about a division of territory; we are talking about the organization of forces. These are two totally different things.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, can you confirm whether or not Israel has proposed that the Syrians establish two early warning stations in the Galilee?

[Peres] There is no foundation for this report.

[Zahir] What do you mean?

[Peres] That it is not true. Look, security arrangements can be mutual. They can also have equal results, or in other words guarantee the security of both Syria and Israel. They cannot be identical in geographical scope for the very simple reason that there is only

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one mountain under discussion. Whoever controls the mountain has an advantage, and whoever gives up the mountain weakens his position. So what kind of equality can you have here?

[Ganor] Have the Syrians accepted this principle?

[Peres] Which principle?

[Ganor] The principle of geographical asymmetry?

[Peres] No, it has not been accepted. As earlier reported, both parties have agreed to work toward achieving equality and reciprocity. If we run into geographic problems, we will search for ways to solve them.

[Ganor] Then what is the basis for your optimistic reply to the first question posed in the interview when you said that progress had been made in the talks?

[Peres] There has been progress in the sense that two or three principles were agreed upon, not in the geographical sphere, and that we have agreed to continue the talks. The very fact that the two meetings were conducted in a very positive and businesslike atmosphere also means something.

[Ganor] Will Israel make the continuation of the talks conditional on a change in the relations between Syria and Iran in light of the current situation in the Middle East?

[Peres] We do not present preconditions. Whoever submits preconditions is basically giving Iran or Hizballah the power to veto the talks. What do you mean by making the talks conditional on this? Hizballah or Iran will then be able to decide whether or not the talks continue? We have no intention of doing this.

[Zahir] But you are aware of the present relationship between Syria and Iran?

[Peres] No I do not and neither do you. We know that meetings take place, but neither of us know exactly what takes place at those meetings. There are conflicting evaluations about this.

[Zahir] Do you think that a date will be reached on concluding the negotiations and signing an agreement with the Syrians before the Knesset elections?

[Peres] I cannot make any commitment that this will happen, but we will definitely make every possible effort to bring it about. Such talks are very hard to time with a stopwatch or a calendar because you never know how long the list of disagreements will be or the various solutions that you come up with.

[Zahir] Is there any hope of an agreement's being signed before the Knesset elections?

[Peres] The possibility exists, but I cannot tell you whether or not it will actually happen. If we work fast enough then it is possible.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, I would like to draw your attention to the U.S. declaration that an Israeli-Syrian agreement must be reached by the end of 1995. If that is the case, can we expect the national referendum to be held in December 1995?

[Peres] If we reach an agreement, a national referendum will definitely be held whether at the end of 1995 or the start of 1996. The truth is that we would also like to conclude the negotiations with Syria before the end of this year. We all know that elections are taking place both in the United States and Israel in 1996, and it is very difficult to hold negotiations near election time. It is therefore preferable to reach an agreement before the end of 1995.

[Zahir] What if the people oppose a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in the national referendum?

[Peres] Such a referendum will bind the government, but if you ask me, the national referendum will be a vote for peace if an agreement is reached.

[Ganor] Have the Syrians received any guarantees that they are not negotiating in vain?

[Peres] The agreement will stipulate that its implementation depends on the results of a national referendum. Such things have political precedents. In other words, any agreement will have to be endorsed by the public. Even at Camp David, when Begin signed the agreement with President al-Sadat on dismantling the Israeli settlements, the Israeli prime minister made it conditional on the Knesset's approval. Now, I believe that deciding who is the supreme endorser, the Knesset or the people, is more our business than the Syrians or the Egyptians.

[Ganor] Have the Syrians agreed to this principle?

[Peres] They are aware of it and know that the agreement will have to be endorsed in a national referendum. There were even those on the Syrian side who declared that Damascus would also hold a referendum. They are welcome to do so.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, three days before 1 July, what is the status of the Israeli-Palestinian talks on an agreement?

[Peres] First, let me say that we have gone a very long way. Agreements were reached on many clauses. As you know, the negotiations are being conducted in three groups. One group deals with elections, regarding which almost all issues except for two have been finalized. The second group is dealing with the transfer of powers. Five powers have already been transferred, and eight others

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are in the process of being transferred. The rest of the powers were discussed in Cairo yesterday and two days ago. Altogether we are dealing with 40 powers. As for the IDF redeployment — which is aimed at enabling the Palestinians to hold elections — and the security arrangements, a great deal of understanding has been achieved here as well, and if today and tomorrow we can overcome one or two central obstacles, we will be able to say that we are very close to signing the agreement.

[Zahir] Is it possible that the agreement will be signed before 1 July?

[Peres] It is possible that we will announce an agreement or agreements before this date. I do not know whether all the paper work will be completed, because a lot of work remains.

[Zahir] Is it true that the agreement will include only some of the cities, not the entire West Bank?

[Peres] I did not say this, because I did not go into the details of the agreement.

[Ganor] Is the agreement going to include only some of the cities?

[Peres] Are you trying to have me answer a question I chose not to answer?

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, will the IDF redeployment in the West Bank refer to all the cities and areas of the West Bank?

[Peres] It will include all the cities we will be able to evacuate. In at least one city there is a very serious problem, and we will have to conduct a special discussion on it.

[Zahir] Are you referring to Hebron?

[Peres] Yes. As for the other cities, I hope we will be able to redeploy the IDF there to some extent. I want to emphasize two main points: First, the Declaration of Principles [DOP] has three references to the negotiations with the Palestinians. One deals with the IDF's redeployment or evacuation from Arab population centers in order to enable them to conduct elections free of IDF control. This is what we are discussing now. A second reference, which is the further redeployment [last three words in English], is aimed at completing the autonomy and reaching a complete interim accord. The DOP does not include a date for this. The third reference deals with the permanent agreement, which is slated to start two years after the autonomy commences. According to the agreement we should start negotiating this issue in May 1996.

Two, we are not talking here about annexing territories or conceding territories, because the issue of sovereignty is not up for discussion at this point. We are dealing here with mapping out authorities in different spheres, not with mapping out territory on the basis of authorities. We are handing over what is required for the Palestinians to be able to establish full autonomy as stipulated in the Camp David accords. We are not dealing with annexing territories or conceding territories.

[Zahir] Mr. Peres, you referred to Hebron as a problematic city. Are you referring to the presence there of some 400-500 settlers in Hebron who can delay the entire peace process with the Palestinians?

[Peres] This is not what I said. I said that we will apparently have to hold an additional and separate discussion on this issue. I have not told them what shape the solution will take.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, the Palestinians viewing us in the West Bank at the present ask themselves what will happen on 1 July. What is your answer as a senior minister, in fact as the man who initiated this process?

[Peres] It is very possible that on 1 July it will transpire that we have reached an agreement on most issues. Three days remain, and we are working around the clock toward this end. I have told 'Arafat, and I want to say this to our Arab viewers: Look at what a turnabout has taken place in the last two years, after Oslo. Gaza is 7,000 years old, but this is the first time that there is a formal Palestinian hold there. The Palestinians have won an address and power. You know, people on the Israeli side wrote off Gaza and said that it was a total failure. Now look how this failure is beginning to blossom. Look how the mood is changing, coffee shops and restaurants are opening. Look at the building boom. I visited the place a week ago and saw some 100 sites where high-rise apartment buildings are being built. There is also a beginning of economic development there. I believe there is a great chance that Gaza will become a Palestinian success, a thing that will also mark the success of our peace.

I told 'Arafat: Maybe you have not received everything, but you received more than what any other Arab leader had received before, while you yourself also did not give us everything. In fact, you did not give us much at all. You decided to turn from violence to dialogue, and the results are not late in coming.

[Ganor] When 'Arafat and the PA wanted violence, however, this is precisely what happened in the form of riots in the West Bank, especially in Nabulus, last week.

[Peres] Are you referring to the prisoners' issue?

[Ganor] Yes.

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[Peres] Look, not all of the wounds have been healed, and not all of the problems have been solved. I have not claimed this. I am only saying that what initially appeared as a failure is now starting to look like an incredible success. We also cannot ignore the fact that there is a considerable drop in the level of violence and attacks. I think that both sides are happy about this, both the Arab and Jewish mothers. The parents are sick and tired of the fundamentalist shaykhs who kidnap their children and send them to commit suicide. They do not want to see their children commit suicide.

[Ganor] The issue of security prisoners, however, unites all sectors of the population in Judaea and Samaria, both the secular and religious.

[Peres] This is only natural, and I do not have to guess the reasons for this. We are aware of this issue. There are problems that the Palestinians must address. For example, there are 700 criminals among the prisoners. Are they ready to receive them? So far we have not received a clear answer on this issue. You must recall that some of the detainees have been detained this year, after the agreement was signed, because of newly perpetrated offenses. What about them? When the number 6,000 is thrown in the air, you must remember that it does not refer to 6,000 prisoners who have been arrested before Oslo, because a large proportion — I do not know the precise figure — have been recently detained for stone throwing or other offenses.

[Ganor] What kind of solution will there be for the issue of security prisoners within the framework of the agreement toward which you are currently working?

[Peres] Look, we have started releasing prisoners. Today the ministerial committee will be convened to examine all the criteria, and I believe it will do its best to bring about the release of prisoners.

[Zahir] Mr. Peres, two days ago Dr. Nabil Sha'th announced that the agreement with Israel will not be signed without the release of prisoners.

[Peres] Look, there are so many statements and so many collectors of statements. I will have nothing to do with them. I am not impressed with all the statements and declarations. We must view the situation on the ground. I am convinced the PA knows very well that we are serious in everything we promise, including the issue of the prisoners. We too have our restrictions and criteria. Look, each side must take into consideration the problems and restrictions of the other side.

[Ganor] Can we understand that you mean that prisoners will be released in the next few days, after 1 July?

[Peres] You can understand from what I am saying that we are indeed making great efforts to bring about the release of prisoners.

[Zahir] But not those who have murdered Jews, correct?

[Peres] I do not want to go into the various criteria. It is true, however, that this is one of the criteria according to which we have acted so far.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, turning to the elections for the autonomy council, can you confirm that these elections will be held next October?

[Peres] I can confirm that the Palestinians regard October as a desirable month. I am not sure whether this will happen in October or a month or two later. We too are very interested to see the elections held by the end of the year. I think it will be very bad if two election campaigns — the Israeli and Palestinian — are held at the same time. We know that election periods are marked by extremist statements, and we do not want to exacerbate relations between both sides. So we too are interested in this. At the same time, you must remember that this issue involves a lot of technical work. Suppose we agree about the redeployment and the transfer of powers, but handing over the powers itself takes time. Even simple paper work is time consuming. So I do not know whether it will take four or five months; I can only say that the Palestinians have asked for the elections to be held in October, and we for our part would like to see the elections held before the end of the year.

[Zahir] You have spoken about the jubilant mood in Gaza. On the other hand, the Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria are in a bleak mood. The question is whether the agreement will be implemented despite the opposition of the Jewish settlers?

[Peres] A democratic country acts only on the basis of laws passed by the majority, not according to the desires of opponents. There are always people who oppose various things, but is this a reason not to implement a law passed by a legal parliamentary majority?

[Ganor] At the same time we are beginning to see the signs of discontent among them.

[Peres] Look, let us talk to the point regarding the issue of the settlers. If relations between the Palestinians and the settlers change, there will be no problem in Judaea and Samaria. If they do not change, there is no solution in Judaea and Samaria. Look, almost one million Arab citizens — including Druze and Circassians — live in Israel. We have gone through five wars together, and thankfully we passed them all peacefully. Jews and Arabs live side by side in Yafo, Haifa, and 'Akko. Ma'alot and Tarshiha are almost one city. This means

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that if people stop using knifes, provocations, and threats, there is no reason in the world why the 1.2 million Arabs living in Judaea and Samaria and the 120,000 settlers living there cannot live without enmity and violence.

[Zahir] Nevertheless, sir, in my humble opinion at least, if we were referring to Israeli Arabs and the Arab sector, then there is no comparison between the two?

[Peres] Why not?

[Zahir] Because the Palestinians assert that the settlers should not be there. Second, the Israeli Government is not doing enough to restrict the settlers' movement.

[Peres] Why should it restrict them? Why not give everyone complete freedom of movement? Why not keep all the traffic axes open? Look, I drove from the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem two weeks ago. We reached Jericho, and ahead of us there was a large convoy of Israeli vehicles. I was the only one who took the bypass road. All the Israeli vehicles drove through Jericho and got through the town safely without any trouble. The bypass road was completely empty. What does this prove? That good relations are better than bypass roads. If people are not afraid of each other then both Arabs and Jews can move freely. This is what we should be aiming at, a situation without knives, guns, or mines.

[Ganor] But other opinions are also heard even among Jews in the territories. Some of these declarations are being described as a call for civil mutiny.

[Peres] I do not know what civil mutiny means. I know that the law must be upheld, and we will not compromise on that. Israel is a state of law above everything else. In the absence of law in the land, there cannot be a state. The law is made by a majority of the public. This is a democratic country. The minority must be respected, but the minority must above all uphold the laws of the state.

[Ganor] The settlers' concerns center around May 1996 when the negotiations are scheduled to begin on the permanent arrangement.

[Peres] Look, the problem is not the permanent arrangement. There is a permanent arrangement. In other words, there is a demographic framework of Jews and Arabs which we seek to reorganize, not recreate. Just as the fate of the Gaza Strip for example is not decided in the agreement. It was the situation in Gaza that decided the nature of the agreement. What do you want us to do in the agreement when there are almost 1 million Palestinians in Gaza on a small and crowded patch of territory? Do you want us to close our eyes or deny the facts? I must comment on a very interesting phenomenon: The Likud, which was so sharply critical of the Oslo agreement, today keeps absolutely mum on the subject of Gaza and Jericho. I do not know of almost any Likud member who calls for an Israeli return to these areas. What does this show? It shows that the opponents of the process are finally beginning to understand that one cannot ignore reality.

[Ganor] But Judaea and Samaria is not the same kettle of fish as the Gaza Strip?

[Peres] We are not talking about fish; we are talking about situations. We are not passing judgment on anything. We are a serious group of people who are sitting down in order to try to ease the friction between Arabs and Jews. We are not about to transfer either the Arab population from Nabulus or the Jewish residents of Ari'el. We are not going to use force.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, it is hard to wrap up our discussion about the territories without touching on the Jerusalem issue. The Jordanian ambassador to the United Nations is proposing to divide control over Jerusalem between the Palestinians and Israel with a interdenominational council being responsible for the holy sites. What is your reaction to this idea?

[Peres] As far as Israel is concerned, Jerusalem is a closed subject. There are two dimensions to Jerusalem. The first is the religious dimension, and the second is the political aspect. With regard to the religious sphere we are very open in our positions. After all, the Middle East conflict also has a religious, not only a political, side to its nature. But religions do not have territory, religions have relations and relationships. That is why we are keen to establish the kind of relations that will enable everyone to freely pray in Jerusalem and safely visit the holy sites. As for the political aspect, if anyone thinks we will turn Jerusalem into Berlin and erect a wall there because someone said something at the United Nations, then they are deluding themselves. Jerusalem was never a Palestinian capital throughout all of history; whereas, the Jewish people never had another capital except for Jerusalem. The current situation in Jerusalem is that there are 550,000 citizens, 400,000 of whom are Jewish and 150,000 who are Arab. From the political viewpoint, the city has a clear majority. From the civil point of view, the rights of all individuals should be respected whether Arab or Jew. The individual's rights, sensibilities, and even public groupings should be respected. That was also the content of my letter to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst which was published in the past. We serve as the government of both Jews and Arabs, and the municipality serves both Arabs and Jews. Both communities must be taken care of and respected.

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[Ganor] Thank you for being with us, Foreign Minister Peres.

Likud: 'Arafat-Peres Understanding 'Capitulation'

TA0407183195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud sharply criticized the understanding reached between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and said that this constituted yet another capitulation by the Israeli Government to the PLO leader. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that the Likud statement asserted that the government was continuing to appease 'Arafat, was not demanding that he rescind the Palestinian National Covenant and stop terrorist attacks, and was hastening to hand over to him West Bank towns that would become terrorist dens next to Israeli settlements.

David Levi Meets Jordan's King Husayn in Paris

TA0407054595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Jordan's King Husayn made an interesting move and initiated a meeting with Knesset Member [MK] David Levi. Husayn believes that Levi will play an important role in promoting the peace process and wished him luck. King Husayn made the remarks to IDF Radio after the meeting last night in Paris. Our Paris-based correspondent Eldad Beck reports:

[Begin recording] [Beck] For the Arab world, David Levi is today one of the greatest mysteries on the Israeli political scene. Jordan's King Husayn wished to get a first-hand impression of Levi, the constraining dove who might tip the scales after the next Knesset elections. The king is troubled by the elections here and in the United States, and he told Levi: Quick progress must be made to attain an agreement with the Palestinians and the Syrians. For his part, Levi pointed at the importance of security:

[Levi] I told him that it is clear that in every process the matter of respecting agreements is primarily based on our security. For us security is not a... [pauses] It is a central, cardinal issue. If it is observed, it is guaranteed; if not — I left this unsaid.

[Beck] After some 40 minutes indirect Hebrew-English dialogue, the king and the candidate for the premiership agreed to stay in touch in the future in order to work out problems. Husayn believes Levi could help promote the peace process.

[Husayn, in English] I believe he does have an important role. I hope that he will be successful in doing whatever he can towards that end.

[Beck] And when does Levi intend to meet Yasir 'Arafat?

[Levi] If there is a role that I consider essential, that will preoccupy me and my colleagues, it is to hold a deep and correct debate about where we are going. We need to point to the issue around which a broad national consensus can be established, and not too late. It matters less who we talk to than what we talk about. What are the Israeli red lines? Regrettably, the lines have been blurred and gone, and no one can explain or clearly answer this question.

[Beck] Yes, you heard correctly — the important thing is what you are talking about and not who you are talking to. [end recording]

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King Husayn Interviewed on Peace Process

LD0407110295 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 2230 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given; from the "Mediterraneo" program — recorded, in English with superimposed Italian translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] To discuss the difficult peace process in the Middle East we have gone to Jordan, a key zone in the troubled region. Jordan is a sort of buffer zone, which has been buffeted by conflicts and tensions and which now has set itself the objective of building a real democracy. There are difficulties and obstacles but King Husayn is convinced that his country will be able to play a leading role. The King received us in his residence.

[Husayn] It was only when the people feel that they are not important, when they have no right to take part, to decide, their future, that democracy, real democracy, succumbs and extremism takes over.

[Correspondent] In Amman there is still talk of peace and tolerance despite the cyclical hardening of positions by Israel, the angry reaction of the Palestinians, the incidents, deaths and terrorist attacks, the provocations, all leading to blocking the progress of attempts to ease the tension. We spoke to King Husayn of Jordan, who received us together with Queen Noor, his wife, in a small reception room in the Royal Palace. It was a wide-ranging, calm conversation against a background which is not all calm. What's Jordan's interest in the development of the Mediterranean region?

[Husayn] In this part of the world I think that the future is linked to a greater and more intense possibility for cooperation. The future at all levels will be cooperation in reforming our common future, which we hope will be better for peace. We hope for a future which will be complementary, which can bring with it a real change in the quality of life for our people, stability, security. All these matters have an important effect on the Mediterranean region and the whole of Europe as well.

[Correspondent] The lack of moderation and tolerance has become a big problem in the Mediterranean region. How does Jordan intend to bolster tolerance internally in the presence of so many conflicting ethnic and religious groups?

[Husayn] Jordan has always been like a house for all those seeking freedom, for all those who seek an opportunity to freely express their thoughts. That is why Jordan has always been like a sort of refuge. And this is the reason for the good coexistence of peoples of different origins, including the great Jordanian families, who make up the social fabric. Therefore, I think that the only path that each and every one of our countries should follow to attain progress and stability is the full realization of democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. So, I hope that what we are doing here can serve as an example to others. We are determined to make it possible for Jordan to be a model for all the other countries.

[Correspondent] What do you think can be done to overcome the present difficulties in the Middle East peace process and in the Middle East? What can the Arab countries, in particular, do?

[Husayn] I hope that the efforts of the Israelis and the Palestinians, through the PLO leadership, which is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, will continue. I hope that these efforts will lead to the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians to live in Palestine. I hope that the frequent delays will not discourage anyone but could rather spur all sides on to work harder, to go forward, to [word indistinct]. I also hope that the other side, the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli talks can make progress. I hope that what we have done in Jordan could be seen as a cornerstone in the building of a total peace in this part of the world.

[Correspondent] The agreement between the Palestinians and Israel said that by 1 July the Israeli troops should leave the occupied territories. Now Israel says that they are not yet ready, that the conditions for them to leave do not exist. What do you think? (?What do you intend to do?)

[Husayn] Jordan will continue to do what it can. It will work as much as it can to help both sides reach agreement. The Palestinians have to take satisfaction from their legitimate rights to their legitimate land. Obviously, there is the plan that was drawn up by the Israelis and Palestinians. I sincerely hope that both sides will comply with it. If difficulties arise then they have to be resolved. Let's hope that the peace signed between Jordan and Israel will be a way to help both sides. Should difficulties arise we will do our best to overcome them, to do our very best to see that a comprenensive peace is achieved in this region.

[Correspondent] Through our program, "Mediterraneo", what message do you want to send to the people around the Mediterranean involved in the development process?

[Husayn] I think the future holds great promise. I want to tell all those who live in the Mediterranean region of our determination to fight for equality, to make our contribution to give our people and future generations what is best for them. We are open. We encourage

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[words indistinct] cooperation looking to the future. After all we belong to the same part of the world and all of us want a bright future.

[Correspondent] Therefore this is a wise leader [word indistinct] in a particularly complex situation which seeks to pilot a difficult process of detente, which tries to put out the fires which continually break out, without fear of [word indistinct] and unpopularity. This is a wide-ranging strategy which appears to be the political plan for Jordan which is preparing to exercise an important and guiding role.

Royal Court Chief Reportedly in Baghdad 26 Jun

JN0307095595 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 5 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed political sources have told AL- BILAD that Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court, recently paid a secret visit to Baghdad during which he delivered a written message from His Majesty King Husayn to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations. The sources, which asked not to be identified, said that Al-Qasim's visit took place last Monday [26 June] and lasted for a few hours as Al-Qasim returned to Amman on the same day by land.

It is to be noted that Iraqi-Jordanian relations have somewhat improved against the backdrop of the political settlement in the region. King Husayn on Saturday said that Iraq is a vital part of the region and the peace process, and said he hopes that the Iraqi people's tribulation would end.

Writer Views New 'Functional' U.S. Policy

JN0407090995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jul 95 p 6

[Article by Rami G. Khuri: "The new rules of the U.S.-Mideast game"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two dramatic Mideast events on two consecutive days last week — the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president and the rather low key coup in Qatar — must appear rather worrisome from the perspective of Washington. After all, these events touch on perhaps the two pillars of Washington's policy towards the Middle East — Egypt and the Gulf oil producers.

Coming in the wake of the recent disturbances in Bahrain, the news from Qatar and Egypt should be taken in Washington as a sign that perhaps Washington's Mideast pillars, like its overall policy in the region, could be in need of some serious updating. It is interesting — perhaps only incredibly coincidental — that a few days after the Qatar and Egypt events the United States announced that it had "renamed" its naval forces in the Gulf and the Red Sea as the 5th Fleet.

I would suggest that what we are witnessing here is more than mere coincidence. It is the logical unfolding of a rather consistent United States policy in our region that may appear ill-advised and unfair from the perspective of most Arabs, but that appears rather functional and satisfactory from the perspective of the American government. It is probably also a good indicator of broader trends in U.S. foreign policy, based on the cold, hard calculations of narrowly defined national interest, which today means very little more than promoting the interests and profits of private corporations and the American economy as a whole.

I had the opportunity earlier this month to participate in a conference in the United States organised by one of the leading U.S. foreign relations research institutions, on the subject of reassessing U.S. policy towards the Middle East. The message that came through loud and clear from the vast majority of participants, who included individuals at the top of U.S. policy-making in the Middle East during the past two decades, was very simple: The United States has very few genuine national interests in the Middle East today other than maintaining access to some oil supplies. All other former principles and policies are subject to change, or even abandonment, if necessary.

I suspect that this is due to three basic factors: The demise of the Soviet Union, which reduced Washington's need to use conservative Arabs as a counter-force against communism in this region; the current, perhaps momentary, Israeli diplomatic triumph over the Arabs, represented by Israel's ability to isolate the Arab parties one-by-one and to sign peace accords with them individually; and, the inability of Washington and its low-income Arab friends to improve socio-economic conditions sufficiently to reduce the Islamist wave in this region, thereby probably bringing Washington to the conclusion that some of its anti-Islamist, pro-Arab autocracy policies may have to be quietly dropped.

The Qatar "coup" is far more interesting in this respect than the assassination attempt against President Mubarak. The events in Qatar are a nuanced hint of indigenous policy changes in this region, rather than an abrupt shift. They seem to indicate a desire by some moneyed Arab parties to pursue policies that are not totally in alignment with Washington's policies, especially vis-a-vis regional security and Washington's "dual containment" policy towards Iran and Iraq.

This could be an important sign of the realisation by at least some Arab Gulf leaders that in the long run

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their true security lies more in coherent regional security arrangements reached with local powers than in bilateral military accords with the United States or other Western powers.

The threat to the Egyptian president suggests that his government's policies at home are not stemming the tide of economic and political frustration that has found its primary expression in two huge problems for Egypt: A violent Islamist opposition, and an albatross-like state bureaucracy that is riddled with inefficiency. Billions of dollars of annual U.S. aid and peace with Israel have not appreciably improved the situation in Egypt.

The United States itself, with its new conservative majority in Congress and its rather listless White House and foreign policy leadership team, is clearly signalling that U.S. engagement with the world will be gradually narrowed to those areas that impact directly on three U.S. interests: Access to foreign markets, access to strategic raw materials, and trading arrangements that promote jobs for Americans (or for foreigners employed by American-owned corporations). This will be expressed immediately in terms of lower foreign aid, and more gradually in terms of American disinterest in domestic affairs in Arab or other Middle Eastern states that do not directly impact on the three U.S. interests mentioned above.

I would hazard to guess that the future may look rather stark to some traditional U.S. "allies" in this region. In due time, the United States will probably quietly abandon most of its traditional friends, partners, allies, surrogates, auxiliaries, protectorates and vassals in this region, while concentrating its bilateral relations on those two points of interest that really matter to it; Saudi Arabian oil and Israel.

Israel seems strong enough to take care of itself for the foreseeable future, whether or not the current peace talks all reach fruition; and the formal presence of the U.S. 5th Fleet in the Gulf is a rather forceful signal of Washington's intent to assure continued access to Saudi Arabian oil. Should either of these interests be threatened, the United States will not hesitate to use its military forces to maintain the status quo, as it did in the Gulf war against Iraq. The corollary to this policy of occasional brutality is the policy of non-benign neglect towards others in the region who may find themselves in economic, social or political trouble. I would even predict that the United States will soon slowly reduce its ties with important, large states such as Egypt, because the cost of maintaining the status quo there will not be matched by the potential benefits — according to the new cost- benefit calculations that drive American foreign policy.

Arab states, leaderships or individuals that traditionally have relied on the United States or that are now cultivating new aid and trade relationships with it would be will-advised to recognise the signs that are emerging in this region and in the United States: The long standing, generally expedient principles and exploitative policies that defined U.S. actions in the Middle East during the past half century are quickly coming to and end.

The one area in this scenario that remains unclear is Washington's policy towards Islamism, which continues to be a powerful force among many discontented people in this region. I suspect that we are witnessing today the early outlines of a new accommodationist American policy towards the Islamists, in which the U.S. and Islamist regimes coexist on the basis of mutual respect for respective national interests — defined primarily in commercial terms by the USA and primarily in ideological terms by the Islamists. Algeria may be the first test of this new approach.

It is fascinating to watch the new dynamic of this region come into play: As the United States withdraws from its broad imperial and geo-strategic role in the Middle East, it replaces this with a more narrow approach focused on segmented commercial and resource markets; at the same time, those who have relied most on U.S. protection and support now have to forge new security relationships based on the realities of regional powers and their interests (mainly Iran, Iraq, Israel, Turkey, and perhaps Egypt and Saudi Arabia). Some Arab/Mideast parties will apply for U.S. protection, but under the new rules of the game only Israel and the eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia will qualify.

Palestinians Urged To Boost Cooperation

JN0507095995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 5 Jul 95 p 19

[Editorial: "Jordan's Initiatives and the Future of the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During his current visit to Paris, His Majesty King Husayn made statements on Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic rights in holy Jerusalem. It is remarkable that the world community now takes interest in the Jordanian conceptions regarding the future of the region, which will take shape when the era of consummated peace is heralded soon. The onset of peace is contingent upon the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution that will bring about security and stability and usher in a wholehearted effort by the peoples of the region to consolidate peace.

Following the significant Paris summit that brought him together with President Chirac, King Husayn indicated

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that the establishment of a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem and another capital in it for the other side is a Palestinian demand that enjoys Jordan's support. The summit served as a rostrum from which his majesty the king reiterated the nation's inalienable and indisputable right to Jerusalem's holy shrines. He proposed a practical mechanism to reach an understanding to this effect. The Paris summit could produce extensive international support for this idea.

We have said time and again that the Jordanian position on Jerusalem and its holy shrines must be supported by the Arabs and Muslims in order to safeguard the trust and our rights there. But, it remains to be said that the momentum created by the statements made by King Husayn on the future of Jerusalem and the Arab and Islamic political and religious rights there currently require a joint Arab and Islamic stand similar to the one that surfaced when Israel expropriated Arab lands in Jerusalem only to renege on this measure for the first time since its inception.

The news reports regarding an imminent breakthrough in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations toward a discussion of the final status of the West Bank and Gaza within the context of the Oslo accord require further consultations, cooperation, and coordination with Jordan. Relevant information should not be withheld from Jordan, particularly since it has been proven by events that Jordan is an ardent supporter of Palestine, and that it is eager to regain all the nation's rights, particularly in holy Jerusalem.

Jordan's political positions are governed by a firm strategic perspective, which stipulates that national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian endeavors must seek to uphold justice and human rights in the fullest sense of the word. Events in recent decades up to now have led to the high esteem in which the Jordanian efforts to build a modern state are held. Jordan has been coping with challenges and engaging in a construction endeavor.

Given all this, the Jordanian initiatives that will be launched in the near future to consummate the peace process, build a network of regional relationships, and formulate a set of relationships with international blocs are expected to remain the focus of attention, to be treated with the appropriate seriousness, and to receive the required support; this will promote peace, security, and stability. This is a must if we are to improve the quality of life for all peoples of the region.

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Nasrallah: 'Resistance' Operations To Continue

NC0407065695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has asserted that the Resistance operations will continue as long as Israel occupies south Lebanon. In a press statement he said the Resistance operations cannot be stopped as long as Israel occupies south Lebanon. No one can ask us to stop these operations.

Qasim Comments on 'Resistance'

NC0307171095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has said that the attempt by the Israeli forces to advance from Bra'shit this morning was aimed at wresting the initiative from the resistance after the recent defeats suffered by the Israeli forces. It also sought to make gains after the failure of Washington talks, he said.

Qasim stressed that the initiative is still in the hands of the resistance, as demonstrated by the size of the Israeli losses today.

Fadlallah Discusses West, Islam's Stances

NC3006171495 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 3

[First part of a two-part interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Carol Daghir; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Daghir] Do you subscribe to the view that there is a clash of civilizations between the West and Islam after the Cold War? We see that fundamentalist movements in the Arab world are fighting the Arab regimes, which are Islamic regimes.

[Fadlallah] To preserve its interests, the West needs to mobilize its public, instill in it a deep feeling of anxiety, and convince it danger looms. The West needs this to have freedom of movement in its policy, economy, and security and to portray itself as defending its people.

This is what we noticed when the United States instigated the U.S. and European peoples against Iraq. Kuwait as a country is insignificant for the West. But the United States highlighted the oil wells and Saddam's control of them. All the Americans and Europeans came to believe that they would lose their means of livelihood.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union the West was left with no enemies. It needed an enemy to justify its policy against the Third World and to keep a foothold there. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the West needed an excuse to stand against people who wanted to obtain justice in their countries. Naturally, it created a new enemy, namely, Islam. [passage omitted]

[Daghir] Does the U.S. stance on Iran fall within this context?

[Fadlallah] The United States is trying to instigate the world against Iran on the pretext of Iran's nuclear danger. But Iran does not possess the economic and scientific resources to obtain nuclear weapons.

[Daghir] Even with Russia's help?

[Fadlallah] Even with Russia's help, because Russia has reservations. Russia feels that Iran's Islamic ideology might spread to the Islamic regions in the former Soviet Union. Russia feels that Iran might become a rich nuclear power overlooking several neighboring states and thus might become a danger to Russian influence.

The (former) Soviet Union is experiencing difficult economic conditions. It has nothing to offer the Third World countries except nuclear expertise and military equipment. The Soviet Union has nothing else to export.

If we study things objectively, we see that Iran will not be in a position to produce nuclear weapons anytime soon.

But the United States wants to make the world feel Iran is a dangerous country. Even regarding the charge that Iran supports terrorism, there is no proof that Iran supports so-called terrorism; it supports Hizballah, which is fighting to liberate south Lebanon, and supports Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These are not terrorist organizations but liberation organizations. Hizballah is trying to liberate Lebanon from occupation and Hamas and Islamic Jihad are trying to liberate Palestine from occupation. So there is no proof that Iran is a terrorist state, because it has no foothold in other parts of the world enabling it to disturb world security through its organizations or forward posts. [passage omitted]

[Daghir] What about U.S. oil interests in the Gulf?

[Fadlallah] I believe Israel possesses some flexibility in its policy through which it can assure the United States about its interests. The United States does not object to Israel participating in the oil business. Several monopolistic U.S. oil companies are controlled by Jews. So the Jewish attitude toward oil is the same as the U.S. attitude.

[Daghir] Is this why Iran is hostile to both Israel and the United States?

[Fadlallah] In my study of the Islamic position in Iran, I believe this position is based on U.S. hostility to Iran.

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So Imam Khomeyni's condition for restoring relations with the United States was that the United States should stop its hostile policy toward Iran and the Muslims. His first condition was that the United States should release the Iranian funds estimated at over $10 billion. So Iran's hostility to the United States is a reaction to the U.S. hostility to Islamic interests in Iran and the region. [passage omitted]

[Daghir] What are the differences among the Islamic movements in various parts of the Arab world, including Lebanon, particularly those movements financed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Arab world, to be more precise, in Egypt and the Arab Maghreb? Are there any differences or similarities among them?

[Fadlallah] I believe there are differences among them. The movements that are financially or politically linked with Saudi Arabia cannot have the same experiences as the revolutionary movements that are open to the issues of freedom and justice in confronting global arrogance represented in the United States, first, followed by the West.

[Daghir] But the slogans and goals are the same.

[Fadlallah] Saudi Arabia has worked on taming these Islamic movements by helping them, making them dependent on this help, imposing conditions on them, and finally controlling them as it pleases. Thus, the Islamic movement falls into the trap of its dependence on the kingdom or another country. So we see that the effective Islamic movements that have been liberated and have launched themselves into action have first been freed from this Saudi custodianship or otherwise.

[Daghir] Could you give us an example of such a movement?

[Fadlallah] I believe that when you look at its plans and locations, you will see that Hamas, which was encouraged by Saudi Arabia, has broken free of the shackles it was living in. We also find that the al-Jihad organization is not bound to any side. We even find some other Islamic movements that do not talk about Saudi Arabia positively. We can see that Hekmatyar in Afghanistan has an unfriendly stance toward Saudi Arabia, and the same goes for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria, which does not sympathize with Saudi policy.

[Daghir] How do you evaluate the bloody Algerian experiment?

[Fadlallah] I believe the Algerian regime led Algeria into this crazy war. There is no doubt that the image of Islam has been distorted. But we hear from those coming from Algeria that the Algerian people accuse the government of many of the things of which the Islamists themselves are being accused.

Experiments might fail in some of their points. I do not believe the Algerians acted out of a desire for violence.

[Daghir] But the Islamic movement there has been characterized by violence.

[Fadlallah] We have often noted that Islamic movements differ in the degree of their awareness and representation of Islam. But I believe the Islamic movement in Algeria, having come a long way in the struggle, has now opened up to the other side and, through the Rome conference, has accepted and can live with the other side, start a dialogue with it, and politically coexist with it. I believe the FIS constitutes the depth of the Islamic movement in Algeria. I believe the Algerian issue is similar to the Lebanese.

[Daghir] Not in its violence or in representing the Islamic revolution?

[Fadlallah] I mean they are close, not in their details, but in their reality, since Algeria is now going through a crazy security scenario involving everyone, because the reality has taken a hold of everyone. We were like this in Lebanon too. Some events in Lebanon made the Christians feel so cornered they had to attack others to protect themselves. This also applies to the Muslims.

The issue in Algeria is that the regime is living in crisis and the Islamic movement is also living in crisis. The U.S.-French conflict keeps them in this crisis.

[Daghir] Do you see a solution soon?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe there will be a solution soon, except through international changes.

[Daghir] In other words, the decision is not in their hands?

[Fadlallah] At least, they will not be allowed to have a solution in their hands even if they wanted one.

Fadlallah Discusses Israel, Peace Process

NC3006193395 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Jun 95 p 4

[Second and final part of an interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Carol Daghir; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Daghir] Suppose Syria and Israel could overcome obstacles, we would be moving toward peace [salam] or conciliation [sulh] between them in accordance with the conditions laid down, namely full withdrawal from the Golan and consequently from south Lebanon. How do you see relations

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between Syria and Lebanon on one side and Israel on the other?

[Fadlallah] Naturally, Syria is the Arab country least open to conciliation, because Syria, with the historic personality of President Hafiz al-Asad, was the country that rejected conciliation with Israel. But the difficult circumstances in the region have compelled Syria to agree to this so that pressure would not be exerted against it through accusations that it is opposed to peace, and thus is a terrorist country, and other accusations that are found in the U.S. lexicon.

I believe Syria will not open itself to Israel even if there is conciliation. This is why Israel is insisting on giving precedence to normalization over withdrawal, because it does not feel that Syria is serious about normalization the Israeli way. Israel wants Syria to follow the Palestinian and Jordanian examples. President al-Asad has stated that normalization is an issue left to the Syrian people and that he could not speak on behalf of the Syrian people without consulting them.

Hence, I do not believe any major normalization will happen as a result of concluding conciliation.

We believe that if conditions in the region remain as they are and if there are no major changes that would bring the temple down on everyone's heads, then Lebanon will be less open than the other countries. The complexities in Lebanon might make it necessary for Lebanon not to pant after the Israeli era, as some people want.

[Daghir] Do you expect the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations to start soon and reach a solution between the two countries?

[Fadlallah] Naturally, the solution between Lebanon and Israel cannot be compared with, it cannot even move ahead of, the solution between Israel and Syria.

[Daghir] Of course. But the Lebanese foreign minister has stated that the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel could start within two months on the basis of the progress made on the Syrian-Israeli track. How do you think these negotiations will start and what, in your view, are the conditions for the solution?

[Fadlallah] We are not in the business of foretelling the solution, because we reject it as a principle. But I believe there will be great difficulties in the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel because there are many issues linked with water, security, and even geography. Israel has spread itself inside Lebanon and opened roads and taken up positions inside the country. It is also insisting on protection for its agents in the border area and on having them enrolled in the army and included in the Lebanese system. I believe this will complicate these negotiations. Therefore, I do not think the negotiations will be easy, but will be difficult, unless the price for the negotiations is conciliation with Israel. I believe Syria will not reach conciliation until after Lebanon obtains its rights up to its border.

Developments must be followed closely, because I do not believe a person can speak easily about an issue that is so complicated.

[Daghir] On the contrary. The Americans and the Israelis believe the Lebanese-Israeli track is the least complicated of all the tracks, because it is an issue of occupation, and the Israelis are prepared to withdraw from south Lebanon. They say they have no plans for Lebanon's territory or its water. To them, the whole issue concerns the security of their border.

[Fadlallah] The experiment of the 17 May agreement, which was merely a security agreement and not a reconciliation agreement, shows that the south and western al-Biqa' will not be free Lebanese territory. There may be withdrawal, but the Lebanese Army may not be permitted to maintain an extensive presence in the border zone and the Lebanese Air Force may not be free to fly in the south. It is very hard for Israel to abandon the water issue, although it could circumvent it at the multilateral talks, which view the region's water as something to be shared by all the regional countries. If Israel is not after Lebanon's water from the regional standpoint or at the negotiations, it is after Lebanon's water within the context of its share in the region's water and as one of the countries that needs water. Israel has built several projects that depend on Lebanese water, so how could it do without it, which would mean blocking many of its agricultural projects? Lebanese water is now running in the veins of the Israeli economy in the border area.

[Daghir] One of the basic points now being raised on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks is that of the resistance in the south, or what the Americans and Israelis consider to be terrorism. How do you see this resistance in light of the possible resumption of the Lebanese-Israeli talks?

[Fadlallah] The resistance has announced that it will last until Lebanon is free. Thus it continues its activity as part of its strategy for liberation and according to the objective circumstances that enable it, from a realistic point of view, to endure.

[Daghir] So in principle, if there is an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, will the resistance believe its goals have been attained?

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[Fadlallah] It is natural for the resistance, which set the goal of liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation, to consider the end of this occupation as the fulfillment of this goal. But the resistance will remain—for all those who think of an Arab and Islamic Palestine—the future horizon that concentrates on the strategy of liberating Palestine from Israel, something no one could do on his own.

[Daghir] Some are concerned that the Lebanese State and the resistance might collide when the Israeli withdrawal issue is raised, particularly with regard to disarming Hizballah.

[Fadlallah] I do not see, not even within the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, any room for an armed struggle or collision between the State and the resistance. This is because the state, particularly in the regional circumstances, is sane enough not to collide with the resistance, in the same way as the resistance possesses enough political maturity not to get involved in the adventure of colliding with the State.

[Daghir] So if the Lebanese Army deploys in the south and the weapons are collected....

[Fadlallah, interrupting] The resistance is opening up to and is in constant dialogue with the state. Thus, if there is a true and objective dialogue, particularly in light of the regional circumstances that do not wish the resistance to be dropped easily or free gratis, I believe the balance we have in the State's relations with the resistance will long remain and will prevent many military adventures.

[Daghir] On the regional level and in the event of a reconciliation with Israel, where would Syria and Iran fit in and what would be the relations between the two?

[Fadlallah] I believe that because of the political reality in the region, there is a strategic relationship between Syria and Iran that prevents them from colliding should there be a change in circumstances, thus making each one of them feel it should move within its own sphere of interests. Syria appreciates Iran's geographical location, both as an Islamic state and as a state surrounded by 16 different nations, something that imposes on it particular political relationships or a particular economic situation. Likewise, Iran appreciates Syria's Arab position and the pressure imposed on it, which in some cases makes it move against its wishes because of the circumstances surrounding it. Thus, this kind of deep understanding between the Syrian and Iranian leaderships prevents the difference in positions from turning into a collision characterized by political struggle.

[Daghir] What about the Islamists participating in the ruling system after criticizing that same system?

[Fadlallah] It is natural for our stance on this system to be a negative one in principle. The same applies to pan-Arabism, Socialism, and all the other ideologies in the region. But this is one thing. Participation in the system, in which there is a practical opportunity for asserting the position, activating the situation, and creating the opportunity for achieving some interim objectives or some vital demands (such as liberating the country from the Israeli occupation), is another. We do not believe a person has only two choices: all or nothing.

Thus the question of participation in the system, whether through parliament, government, or administration, is one of flexibility and of discerning how much the Islamists' participation in this or that organ serves the public interest. [passage omitted]

[Daghir] Based on the pragmatic and realistic view of the Islamic movement, particularly in Lebanon, what sort of peace is possible with Israel and how fair could it be?

[Fadlallah] I believe the word fair has no place in this peace that is being made. I stress that the word peace cannot be put in parenthesis, because the issue of peace stemmed from the problem of so many wars in the region and will prevail in it in future. We believe that all these shocks in the region were caused by the Jews' control of Palestine, which attracted Jews worldwide. They came to Palestine directly and indirectly and this necessitated the expulsion of Arabs, both Muslims and Christians, in the war of 1948. That war was meant to give the Jews a legitimate reason for establishing a state on the soil of Palestine, on the basis that they won the war. Thus Israel obtained the recognition of the major countries and even of some small ones. Israel was thus created by usurping and repressing. To extend and legitimize this repression was only natural. It is like someone defeating me, causing a problem with me, and then saying: Come, let us solve the problem on the basis that you will remain vanquished but I will not defeat you elsewhere. I compare the peace proposed now with a person who occupies my house and then allows me to live in one room without allowing me ownership; instead he gives me freedoms, that is, self-rule. Then he comes and tells me: Let us have conciliation on this basis, on condition that your house will be mine while I let you have one room where you can eat, drink, and sleep.

Therefore we do not think there is fairness. When there is no fairness in the solution, then there is no peace. Fairness in such a case would be a sedative that numbs the wound, but when its effect wears off, the wound becomes very painful.

[Daghir] Where is the fairness?

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[Fadlallah] Fairness is to have all the Palestinians return to Palestine and the Jews from worldwide to leave it. The Palestinians — Jews, Christians, and Muslims — can then choose their way of life as is the case in Lebanon.

[Daghir] This is the idealistic solution, not a pragmatic one.

[Fadlallah] Yes, this is the ideal. As to it not being pragmatic, I admit that it is not, under the current international conditions, or even after what follows. I think the issue is not one of peace, but of a solution that silences the conscience of a people seeking to retrieve its territory. It is a truce that might go on for long and might be undermined by some incidents. The Islamists do not see themselves in a state of conciliation with the Jews while the Jews remain in Palestine. They have the freedom to do what they want inside Palestine, even after peace, whenever they have an opportunity.

[Daghir] That is, break the truce whenever they want?

[Fadlallah] When conditions are right for this.

[Daghir] This peace is, in your view, no more than a truce necessitated by the reality and imbalance.

[Fadlallah] It is a realistic truce imposed by the conditions. But we do not recognize it, although we must live with it. I used a slogan in the past, namely, that we are coexisting with the injustice but do not recognize its legitimacy.

[Daghir] But coexistence legitimizes things eventually.

[Fadlallah] No. When there is an awareness of the illegitimacy of injustice in this coexistence, then separation remains an option.

[Daghir] Does this truce involve trade and economic dealings and interaction on the ground?

[Fadlallah] The Islamists reject this by the laws of the shari'ah, unless it is necessary, on the basis that God permits people to do things when they are forced to. It is a question of necessity.

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Source: No Accord Allowing Greece Air Base Use

NC0307130995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, 3 Jul (MENA)—An official source at the Syrian Embassy in Ankara today denied that Syria had signed a military agreement with Greece allowing it to use Syrian air bases.

The Syrian diplomatic source told a MENA correspondent in Ankara that accusations leveled by a number of senior Turkish officials regarding such an agreement [illegible]nfounded." The source explained that Greece does [illegible]yrian air bases. He said some tendentious foreign [illegible]are conveying false information to Turkish sides to provoke a problem between Ankara and Damascus.

The Syrian source stressed that his country is working to improve relations with Turkey and resolve all differences peacefully. But he said that Ankara is escalating its campaigns against Syria on the pretext that Damascus is helping members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party and that it signed a military agreement with Greece.

Security Arrangement 'Leaks' Seen Weakening Position

JN0507091895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 5 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Clear Position," AL-THAWRAH says: Since the beginning of the launching of the peace process, Syria has been adopting a clear position toward this process and its objective, which has been outlined by President al-Asad on several occasions. According to the Syrian position, for peace to be realized and to continue, it should be just and comprehensive.

AL-THAWRAH says Syria's linking of peace, justice and comprehensiveness is based on the fact that the international legitimacy resolutions related to the conflict and peace clearly state that the restoration of peace is conditional on the end of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria has done everything possible to realize peace, security, and stability in the region. Israel, on the other hand, has done just the opposite. Israel tried to close all roads and abort all opportunities for progress in the peace process that were made available by the seriousness and clarity of the Syrian stand.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: The acknowledgment by U.S. officials of gaps and sharp differences that require more efforts to overcome emphasizes anew that Israel's known negative position has been the main and sole obstacle to achieving progress in the peace process.

In an editorial entitled "Equitable Security," TISHRIN says: Reports have begun to mention that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, intends to embark on a tour of the region in a fresh attempt to advance the peace talks, especially on the Syrian track.

TISHRIN emphasizes that achieving any progress on the Syrian track has been, and continues to be contingent upon the Israeli position and whether Israel wants peace and whether it wants to withdraw from the Golan. TISHRIN adds: All signs indicate that Israel continues to deal with the peace requirements and principles from the perspective of security gains and not the perspective of realizing equitable [mutakafi'] and balanced [mutawazin] security. Contrary to this, Syria's position is that the security of one party should not be realized at the expense of the security of the other party.

TISHRIN adds: Any talk or press leaks about arrangements through which Israel realizes gains at the expense of Arab security and the security of Syria are aimed to make way for the Israeli allegations and pretexts or even market them in order to undermine the Syrian position which sticks to the constants and principles of the peace process.

TISHRIN says that military superiority does not realize security or stability, and Israel knows this before anyone else. The Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a statement that the gaps continue to be wide between the Syrian and Israeli positions on the peace process. This is basically caused by Israel's attempts to impose its security and other concepts on the peace talks. Israel also tries to reap the fruits of peace without contributing to peace making.

TSHRIN concludes: Undoubtedly, when Syria declares that peace is its strategic option, it means that peace cannot be realized or last without the return of the Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines in a real translation on the ground of the security arrangements in terms of equality [musawah], equitability [takafu'], and balance [tawazun]. When Israel abides by these principles and bases, then it will be possible to make new headway on the Syrian track of the peace process.

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Daily Backs Lebanese Right To Resist Occupation

JN0507112695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 5 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the title of "Policy of Threat of an Aggression...When Will it End?" AL-BA'TH editorial says: Following a series of aggressions that have become daily against southern Lebanon, Israel—through its Chief of Staff Shahaq— threatened a new invasion of southern Lebanon. Some Israeli leaders called for a broad military action against Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH says the escalation policy does not serve the peace process, but contributes in one way or another to the destruction of any opportunity to advance the peace process. AL-BA'TH says the Israeli leaders threaten Lebanon, but they ignore the real reasons that lead the Lebanese citizens to carry weapons and defend their land to ensure a stable and secure life in accordance with international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel, which occupies parts of southern Lebanon, not only rejects the implementation of Resolution 425, which calls for its unconditional withdrawal, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denies the existence of that resolution in the first place. Faced with such a situation, what can the Lebanese citizen do? Doesn't he have the right to defend himself? AL-BA'TH says Israel's insistence on continuing its occupation of parts of southern Lebanon emphasizes the reality of the Israeli greed in Lebanon, which it tries to deny while insisting on the continuation of occupation, and subsequently the continuation of aggression and the threat to expand this aggression.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Israel has made several direct and indirect attempts to push Lebanon to follow others who signed partial and separate agreements, but Lebanon rejected and resisted these attempts, and remained firm in its position which converges with the Syrian position, and which calls for implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Lebanon is like Syria; it does not ask for the impossible. It has a land that had been occupied by armed aggression, and it has the right to use all available means approved by the international legitimacy to restore fully its land and rights. The question is: Why does Israel give itself the right to launch an aggression and occupy the land of others while it denies the right of those whose lands were occupied by aggression to practice their legitimate right to restore their land and rights.

Calls To Disarm Lebanese Resistance Dismissed

JN0407070595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses Israel's recent escalation of its ground and air attacks on southern Lebanese villages and towns, saying: It is Israel which always escalates tension in southern Lebanon. Israel is the party that has constantly shelled civilian communities. Israel is the party that has recently exploded carbombs in southern Lebanese villages and towns to terrorize civilian communities.

TISHRIN adds: Israel's complaints are utterly meaningless. For it is Israel which is occupying Lebanese territory and preventing the Lebanese Army from deploying on this territory. Moreover, it is Israel which is opposed to withdrawal from southern Lebanon and to the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions, particularly Resolution 425. Additionally, Israel has carved out a part of southern Lebanon and launched an agent army assigned the task of terrorizing and displacing the Lebanese there. It is Israel which has destroyed farmland in southern Lebanon, uprooted trees, prevented farmers from working at their farms, and stolen their water resources. Worse still, it is Israel which fires thousands of destructive shells at civilians and innocent villagers on a daily basis.

TISHRIN wonders: Given all this, can the struggle being waged by the national resistance be deemed illegal? Moreover, is it the business of Syria, which has mobilized all its resources to defend pan-Arab destiny and pan-Arab objectives, to ask the Lebanese strugglers to lay down their arms and succumb to the occupation at a time when the occupation troops have refused to withdraw in compliance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and honor the Geneva conventions?

TISHRIN says: When they call upon the Lebanese and Syrian governments to disarm the resistance factions while the occupation is still in place, Israeli officials show a lack of sensible reasoning and blind themselves to inescapable facts.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Israel's security cannot be promoted by the perpetuation of the occupation. Security is achievable when Israel withdraws from the territories, returns the occupied territories to their owners in compliance with the relevant UNSC resolutions, and honors the UN Charter and the Geneva conventions.

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Paper Calls For 'Complete Israeli Withdrawal'

JN0407063795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH editorializes on Syria's positive handling of the peace process, saying: In the congratulatory cable sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has underlined Syria's position, which champions just and comprehensive peace. This confirms anew the positive and honest Syrian handling of the peace process.

The paper adds: This Syrian position epitomizes the positive and constructive face of the Middle East peace process. For this position is based on firm constants and committed to just and comprehensive peace in letter and spirit. Moreover, this position is grounded in international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions. This position is the only guarantee for achieving the security and stability aspired to by the peoples of the region.

The paper goes on to say: By contrast, the Israeli stand has continued to epitomize the negative face that is sabotaging this process. This stand has been marked by maneuvers, bargains, intransigence, and attempts to violate the objective ground rules of the peace negotiations in order to derail them and preclude the achievement of true peace.

The paper says: Israel, which is occupying Arab territory, has failed to make a clear and public declaration of its commitment to the relevant UN resolutions. This has obstructed and frustrated the bilateral negotiations, thus jeopardizing the peace process.

Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that the gaps between Syria and Israel are still wide, the paper notes. The paper believes that these gaps will remain wide as long as Israel continues to embrace its current traditional position, which is oblivious to all regional and international developments and changes.

AL-BA'TH adds: The relevant equation is very simple: Complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and parallel [mutawaziyah] and equitable [mutakaf'iah] security arrangements in exchange for full peace.

Radio Says 'Ball Is in Israel's Court'

JN0407142195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The rulers of Israel think that dividing peace in the region, negotiating with one Arab party at a time, and concluding a separate deal with this or that party will enable them to dictate the formula of peace they want. This policy is useless. So far, the required progress in the peace process has not been achieved, and the situation in the region has become more complicated. Also, time is running out while all those who are concerned with the peace process are wondering about its future.

It is common knowledge that since the peace process was launched, Syria has repeatedly warned of the danger of partial and distorted solutions. Syria has urged the rulers of Israel to live up to the cause of peace and the principles and charters of the international community and to address all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict from a perspective that depends on the Security Council resolutions. According to this perspective, each party should get its rights. This is because a bitter and complicated conflict, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, cannot be settled through superficial solutions that deal with the surface without tackling substance.

Syria has announced that Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and full recognition of Palestinian rights are two basic conditions for a just and lasting solution. This simply means returning all the territories occupied in 1967 and the Lebanese territories occupied in 1982 to their people and dismantling the settlements that were set up on these territories. Everybody has acknowledged that settlements are an obstacle to peace and are time bombs that threaten the success of the peace process at all times. Israel, however, has chosen a policy of separate deals and secretly concluded with the Palestinian side the ominous Oslo accord, which is still ink on paper. This is because each point in this accord needs a separate agreement and because Israel sought through this accord to combine peace and occupation and peace and settlement activity. Combining these is impossible, as has been proven through the developments in the region. Thus, the Palestinian track has stumbled and the issue of peace suffered a serious setback.

Israel should have learned lessons from this track and dealt seriously with peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. This is especially true, since Syria has expressed full readiness to establish a just and firm peace in the region. In addition, success on the Syrian track is sine qua non for success on the Lebanese track. The success of these two inseparable tracks will ensure the objective requirements for peace in the Middle East. Syria and Lebanon are demanding only what is their right. They are demanding the return of all their territories and Israel's withdrawal to the previous armistice lines, that is, the 4 June 1967 lines for Syria, and 1978 for Lebanon.

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When Israel insisted on the question of security arrangements that will follow withdrawal and deemed these arrangements vital, Syria agreed to equitable [mutakafi'ah] and even [muta'adilah] arrangements. Based on this, Syria took part in the Washington military talks under the auspices, and with the participation of the United States. Again, Israel failed to rise to the occasion regarding the cause of peace and the principles and charters of the international community.

Peace can only be established on justice and equitability. The Security Council resolutions that govern the peace process provide a large degree of justice and equitability. If it were possible to impose peace by the force of guns and the brutality of raids, peace would have been achieved a long time before. But in spite of its huge military arsenal and aggressive actions, Israel has not been able to get any closer to peace. Syria, for its part, has made it clear that full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June lines is a major condition for any peaceful effort. Syria has also announced that it will not agree to any Israeli military deployment on the Golan, even if this covers 1 km only. This is because occupation amounts to aggression, whether it includes all of the Golan or 1 km of it. This will also challenge the dignity of all Syrians, their feelings, and pride in themselves. What applies to Syria applies to Lebanon. Therefore, the ball is in Israel's court, and the decision is in the hands of the Israeli officials. They must choose between a just and firm peace, along with the true security that it provides, and the continuation of occupation, along with its tragedies, tribulations, serious escalation in the region, and destruction of the peace process.

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Afghanistan

Five Hekmatyar Officials Join Rabbani Government

LD0407171095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan Government sources announced that five more officials of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami have joined the government of Borhanodin Rabbani, the president of that country.

Announcing this, Afghanistan's BAKHTAR information agency added they are expected to take up important posts in Afghan Government ministries.

Pakistan's MQM Asks Rabbani To Help in Karachi

LD0307172795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Altaf Hussain, leader of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], has recently asked the president of Afghanistan in a letter to use his personal influence to put an end to the tragic incidents in Karachi. In the letter, light has been shed on the deep Islamic links between the two fraternal countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan and on the tragic events in Karachi, and the assistance of world leaders, especially esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has been sought.

According to reports, political and ethnic tension between the police and the MQM has deteriorated in Karachi and has led to the killing of a large number of residents of the city. The death toll rises every day.

Message From Iran's Khamene'i Received Positively

LD0407133095 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 4, IRNA — Residents of western Kabul and leaders of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan] on Monday [3 July] responded positively to the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

In a ceremony, held at Imam Khomeyni mosque in Kabul, thousands of residents listened to the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution to the Afghan nation inviting all belligerent factions to refrain from any act of hostility against each other.

In the ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, the leader's representative in Afghan affairs, underlined that the enemies of Islam are sowing discord among Afghan Muslims and are not willing to solve Muslims' problems. He called on the Afghan Muslims to lay down their arms and reconstruct the country.

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Fazel, a leading member of the Islamic Unity Party, renewed allegiance with the leader of the Islamic revolution.

The Iranian delegation, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, is currently in Afghanistan to convey the leader's message and invite the Muslim people of the country to unity.

Foreign Currency Accounts Permitted at Banks

LD0307173795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Afghanistan Bank will provide credit worth 100 billion Afghanis to Industrial Bank, Mortgaging, and Construction Bank, and Agricultural Development Bank. A correspondent of BAKHTAR reports that this was approved during a recent session of High Council of the Afghanistan Bank. [passage omitted]

It was also decided at the session that in order to provide better facilities, our compatriots are allowed to open foreign currency and Afghani current accounts in all the banks in the country.

Official: King Has 'No Place' in Politics

BK0307144595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1335 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 3 (AFP) — Former King Zaher Shah, who has lived in exile in Italy for the past 22 years, has no place in current Afghan politics, a senior Foreign Ministry official said in Kabul Monday.

"Among the common people of Afghanistan the King has nolo place anymore," Sattar Morad [name as received], Director of the First Political Division of the Afghan Foreign Ministry told AFP. "As an Afghan individual Zaher Shah is welcome to come and live in Afghanistan again — but not as king," Morad stressed. Zaher Shah, who was King of Afghanistan from 1933-1973, has gained prominence in the regional press due to the arrival in Pakistan of his cousin and son-in-law, Sardar Abdul Wali [name as received].

The Afghan Foreign Ministry on Sunday issued a softly worded protest note to the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul, which questioned the motives of Islamabad's invitation to Wali, which was given without consultating the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The Foreign Ministry note stated that Wali's invitation by the Pakistan authorities was "out of harmony with the ongoing endeavours of the Afghan Islamic State and the international community towards establishment of peace in the country."

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Wali, who arrived in Islamabad over the weekend, has said Zaher Shah will continue to play a role in settling the crisis in Afghanistan. Wali has held meetings with Pakistan's President Farooq Ahmad Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali.

The Afghan foreign ministry note also stated that Wali's invitation was similar to past actions which caused fighting and the continuation of tension in Afghanistan. "Therefore it cannot be a move helpful and proper for the process of a positive solution to the Afghan problem," the Foreign Ministry note added.

The Pakistan Charge d'Affaires in Kabul was not immediately available to comment on the protest note. "Wali could play [words indistinct] role — if he had come directly to Kabul, or some other provincial centre, first," Morad stated, adding that "he made a mistake and he discredited himself by going to Pakistan."

It was not clear whether Sadar Wali would be welcome in Kabul if he requested permission to visit the Afghan capital after he had finished his business in Pakistan. Government officials loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, whose fighters have driven opposition forces out of Kabul, are wary of any peace moves which are "directed from outside" the country.

"This three years of war in Afghanistan has been caused by the interference of close neighbours," charged Morad. Pro-Rabbani officials consider the former monarch as hostile to the current government in Afghanistan, saying he has never declared his open support for the mojahedin in their 14-year struggle against the invading Red Army of the former Soviet Union. "The King is just another card in the hands of our opponents, but we still hold all the aces," commented a pro-Rabbani official.

Bangladesh

Border Trade Agreement Reached With Burma

BK0507044295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] have agreed to formally open border trade between the two countries by the first week of September this year. This was decided at a meeting on the implementation of the border trade agreement held in Yangon [Rangoon] today.

The meeting was attended by commerce secretary, Mohammad Asafuddowla, who is leading a Bangladesh trade delegation and (U Kyaw Min), director general of trade of Myanmar. Customs and immigration authorities of both sides have made preparations to start the border trade.

BNP Grapples With 'Constitutional Crisis'

BK0507095195 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 26 Jun 95 p 4

[Article by A.Z.M. Haider]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] parliamentary party is caught in the grip of serious constitutional crisis caused by the opposition members absence from the House for consecutive 90-days and it is reportedly working hard to wriggle out of it to meet its political expedience.

The speaker, who is well conversant with the constitutional provisions, knows how to get out of such a tangle. But he is snubbed into silence and hence unable to play its rightful role in such a crisis-situation.

The top-brass of BNP held a meeting on Friday and Saturday last to work out a modus operandi. They will inform the speaker after hammering out a modus operandi so as to enable him to act upon it. BNP's operating procedure in the face of 90-day constitutional crisis is to fritter away time until July 15 when the speaker will declare opposition members seats vacant making it incumbent upon the Election Commission to announce the schedule for by-elections to vacant seats 90 days after the day the seats are declared vacant. The government party knows for certain it is not possible to hold by-elections to such a large number of seats. Hence it will make no preparation to participate in the by-elections. The announcement of the schedule for by-elections is, however, necessary to while away 90-days period which is a constitutional requirement.

But one or two days before the stipulated time frame is exhausted, the schedule for by-election will be cancelled, parliament will be dissolved and a new timetable for general election will be announced after another 90-days period. In this way six months period will be consumed to enable BNP to run out its full term and hold election in mid-January. The hardliners in the ruling party want to procrastinate the holding of poll further and carry it over to March because they think January is not propitious for them to go to poll. They intend to devise some other mechanism to delay the process of holding election by another two or three months.

The problem with BNP is that it is not prepared to go to poll right at the moment and hence it is not willing to declare seats of the opposition members vacant. But the harsh reality is that ever since they have submitted their resignations, they are staying away from the House

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without leave of the speaker. What is more, they have already completed their absence from the House for 90 consecutive days without leave of the speaker. Naturally, therefore, according to Constitution, their seats have fallen vacant warranting by-election within 90 days, computing from the date of their absence.

The opposition members, three of whom are dead and seven are yet to complete 90 days of their consecutive absence, asserted through their spokesman that 147 of them have tendered their resignations on December 28, 1994. They have not only continuously absented themselves from the session of the parliament but have also no intention of attending any other session of this parliament in future.

What is more, they have demanded immediate dissolution of the parliament instead of allowing the party-in-power to go ahead with what is called the mock sessions of the one-party parliament which may at best be called meeting of BNP parliamentary party.

According to the Constitution, parliament means a body consisting of 300 directly elected members as well as 30 women members elected by members without whom parliament is incomplete and truncated.

Therefore, under the present circumstances the speaker's ruling on the subject is not necessary. He is only under an obligation to inform the House that due to consecutive absence for 90 days from the House 149 members seats have fallen vacant.

The vacancy of seats necessitates steps to hold by-elections within 90 days or staging of general election within 90 days of the dissolution of the parliament.

But the problem with the ruling BNP is that it is not in a position now to go for either by-election or for general election. With acute food crisis resulting in grave famine condition prevailing in various parts of the country, BNP cannot go out to ask for votes. The fertilizer scandal culminating in the protest marches of farmers and consequently in firing by the government's law enforcing agencies on those processions and killing of farmers at number of places created reactions among starving millions languishing in limitless poverty in the countrysides. BNP nominees will therefore find it extremely embarrassing to fan out in the countrysides and ask for votes from the rural electorate. BNP's image is, therefore, at its lowest ebb now and hence under such a trying situation it is unwilling to be drawn into a triangular electoral combat with Awami League and Jatiya Party standing as its formidable challengers.

But the constitutional crisis created following completion of 90 days absence from the House by the opposition members who have resigned on December 28, 1994 has pushed BNP to the edge of a precipice. It is difficult for it to step back and delay the process of holding election as provided for in the Constitution. If it takes steps to move forward towards the poll right now, it is certain to fall into an abysmal depth and meet its Waterloo.

BNP strategists met on Friday and Saturday to devise ways and means of dribbling out of the impasse so that their party may be able to buy some more time to hold election in January at the earliest. Next few days will decide whether BNP will swim or sink.

India

Kashmiris Reject Talk Offer With Government

BK0307122295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference have once again rejected Indian offer for talks. The offer of talks was made by the visiting Indian minister in charge of Indian prime minister's secretariat in Srinagar. The chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, informed the minister that such talks would be meaningless. He reiterated categorically that talks with India were not possible until it recognizes the disputed nature of Kashmir issue.

Meanwhile, a senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Gilani, has disclosed the Indian conspiracy to assassinate leaders of the conference for which it has organized a group of assassins. He called upon all Kashmiri organizations to further solidify their unity and remain in constant vigilance against the Indian designs to create rift among them.

On the other hand, reports received from various parts of occupied Kashmir indicate that the freedom fighters have intensified their actions against the Indian armed forces in retaliation to their stepped up brutal operations against the Kashmiri people. In their latest operation, the freedom fighters are reported to have killed 10 Indian soldiers at (Laiyar) in Badgam and three in Kulgam in Islamabad District. A military convoy was attacked by the freedom fighters near Badarwa, but details of casualties were not available. Two troops were killed and four injured when a military vehicle was blasted in a bomb explosion in Chhamb area. Fierce clashes were reportedly going on between the troops and freedom fighters in a vast jungle area in Doda District which has been besieged by the troops.

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Pakistan Continues Firing Across Kashmir Border

BK0507051095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing for the second day yesterday in the 22-km India-Pakistan international border in the Ranbirsinghpura sector of the Jammu region. They fired at the Indian laborers engaged in fencing work. A BSF [Border Security Force] spokesman said in Jammu that despite exchange of fire, Indian authorities resumed fencing work in the sector. There was no casualty or injury on the Indian side. On Monday [3 July] also, there was an exchange of fire forcing the laborers to stop work.

Minister Pledges Democratic Solution to Kashmir

BK0507042095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The high-level central team now on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir today reviewed developmental works in Doda District. Addressing a meeting of political leaders and citizens of the district, the leader of the team and union minister, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, said the center is committed to solve the Kashmir issue democratically without using force. He urged the people of the state to rise above political consideration and work jointly to normalize the situation.

Earlier, during his two-day visit to Kashmir Valley, Mr. Chaturvedi visited several places to interact with people to know their problems. Addressing a public meeting in the border town of Tangdhar, Mr. Chaturvedi expressed hope that normalcy would soon return to the valley. Talking to several delegations at Anantnag in southern Kashmir, Mr. Chaturvedi assured the people that their genuine grievances would be looked into. During his meeting with the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, Mr. Chaturvedi discussed at length the modalities for starting democratic processes in the state. Mr. Chaturvedi said the situation in valley has improved considerably and efforts are continuing to bring about normalcy in the state as soon as possible.

Commentary Laments U.S. Congress Resolution

BK0507104895 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Jul 95

[Commentary by V. Sudarshan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. task force on terrorism has indicted Pakistan and some other Islamic fundamentalist countries for their involvement in international terrorism, including spreading of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The task force on terrorism and unconventional warfare of the House Republican Research Committee headed by Congressman Bill McCollum has warned that terrorist violence in Kashmir would escalate and even spread to other parts of the country with active support from Pakistan and some other Islamic fundamentalist countries. According to the report, supporting the Kashmir cause serves the domestic interests of the Pakistan Government in three crucial respects. First, tension over Kashmir creates a diversion from frustrations at home; second, the Kashmir cause allows Islamabad to rally the support of Pakistan's Islamic parties and their loyalists in the military and the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence]; and third, it serves the regime as an important access point to the markets of Central Asia. The report further says that Pakistan's ISI has established [words indistinct], a center for worldwide Islamic activities, in which terrorists, mercenaries from Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, and some other countries are receiving combat experience.

While it is heartening that the Republican task force on terrorism has blamed Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir and other parts of India, it would be pertinent to point out that how the Republican Research Committee — which has gone into the issue — does it every year as part of an annual exercise. Moreover, the findings serve as a reiterative input which goes into the broader Republican approach to sensitive foreign policy issues. In the case of the task force findings in previous years, there is little to distinguish them from the findings of this year. It has consistently maintained Pakistan's capability in sponsoring terrorism. Taken in isolation, it might look as if it were a significant indictment, but taken in the context of events which have preceded and succeeded it, it is obvious that U.S. policymakers have not placed an overwhelming emphasis on findings of this nature.

This has been made more clear in the bipartisan manner in which the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has admitted a resolution on Kashmir recently, which plays down brazenly Pakistan's role in fomenting violence and terrorism. The bipartisan resolution urges both India and Pakistan to enter into negotiations with the legitimate representatives of the Kashmiri people to resolve the dispute peacefully. Given the way, the resolution is weighed blatantly in favor of Pakistan.

It is obvious that India is not likely to draw much comfort from this resolution for a number of reasons. While the resolution criticizes India for alleged widespread human rights abuses in Kashmir, there is only a fleeting reference to the acts of violence committed by the Kashmiri militants who are morally, politically, and economically consoled by Islamabad. The resolution also ten-

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ders, almost incidentally, active advice to Pakistan to reduce its support to Kashmiri militants. The attempt is intended to make the resolution look less pro-Pakistan than otherwise it would have been. All this is slightly worrying as the resolution in all likelihood would be adopted without much debate or change as both the majority and the minority parties in the U.S. Senate more or less concur on the contents as well as the substance of the resolution.

Even this sort of pretense to a feeble attempt at even-handedness is given up when it comes to the U.S. State Department which is also responsible for substantial inputs into the making of foreign policy. Recent statements made by U.S. State Department officials attempted to put in perspective the conspicuous American tilt toward Pakistan, saying that if the U.S. were to designate Pakistan as a terrorist state for its role in promoting cross-border terrorism, it would be tantamount to siding with India in the Kashmir conflict. This is a strangely convoluted explanation for the American reluctance to call a spade a spade. The reluctance, according to Democratic Representative Robert Andrews, stems from what he terms a low-cost benefit to the administration, keeping in mind the possibility of selling arms to Pakistan on which President Clinton is supposed to have given an assurance to Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Contaminated Soil Brought 'Fully Under Control'

BK0507111495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bhabha Atomic Research Center, BARC, has said that the contamination of soil within the waste immobilization plant at Tarapur has been brought fully under control. A BARC release issued in Bombay said that there was a low-level radioactive contamination due to a suspected leak in the steam coil of the evaporator of the plant. The evaporator has been isolated. The release made it clear that low level of discharge from the plant cannot contaminate the water in the wells in (Ghghli) Village which is more than one km away from the plant.

Iran

Sham'khani Cited on Victory-6 Maneuvers

NC0407070595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the Naval forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran has said the preliminary and massive Victory-6 maneuvers have been successfully completed in Persian Gulf waters.

Rear Admiral ['Ali] Sham'khani told our correspondent: In these maneuvers 220 heavy ships, destroyers, ships, small ships, and light and heavy troopships 140 gunboats, 30 aircraft, 20 helicopters, and marines and rangers of the army and of the [Islamic Republic Guards] Corps will carry out 186 exercises in four phases over eight days.

The Navy commander said the objective behind these maneuvers is to prevent any type of disorder and unrest in the region and to transfer the classic know-how of the experienced seamen of the Iranian Navy to young officers. He added: These maneuvers will involve the Armed Forces' latest logistic achievements. The massive Victory-6 maneuvers started yesterday in the second Naval district of Bushehr.

Radio Details Maneuvers

LD0507121495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Victory-6 maneuvers continue in Bushehr's second naval zone in the Persian Gulf. One of our correspondents, stationed in the maneuver area, reports on today's operations.

[Correspondent] Courageous combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, backed by fast-flying pilots of our country's Air Force, demonstrated their combat and defensive capabilities in the second phase of the great Victory-6 maneuver. On the third day of the maneuvers, the mighty warriors of Islam carried out mine-planting, minesweeping, and mine-detecting operations, thanks to the bravery of the divers. Units of the floating vessels were then able to ply through the newly mineswept canal at high speed and in full success.

During these operations the brave combatants of the Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, enjoying the support of our country's Air Force fighter bombers, tested their sophisticated military weapons. The combatants, on board warships, helicopters and speedboats, while firing on surface targets, utilized the newly manufactured artillery pieces, made by the experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

Other operations performed today by the zealous warriors of Islam in crystal blue waters of the Persian Gulf were: Sailing, refuelling of warships while on the move, firing by helicopters of air-to-surface missiles on units of a hypothetical enemy, reconnaissance and salvage operations, dropping of depth charges in antisubmarine operations, operation against floating vessels, exercise by speedboats and counterattacks by frigate units against jet fighters of a hypothetical enemy.

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President Clinton Reverting to 'Gunboat Diplomacy'

LD0407165095 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, July 4, IRNA — After failing to gain international support for an economic embargo against Iran, U.S. President Bill Clinton has reverted to old fashioned gunboat diplomacy by re-activating the Fifth Fleet in the Persian Gulf.

The announcement Monday of a new and permanent naval fleet to target Iran coincided with the seventh anniversary of the U.S. downing of an Iranian Airbus, described by former American presidential advisor, Garry Sick, as a shameful military action. The re-establishment of the Fifth Fleet, after it was de-activated from operating in central Pacific campaigns against the Japanese almost 50 years ago, is said to be the first created since the U.S. since World War Two.

According to Tuesday's London GUARDIAN, it brings together two nuclear submarines, 15 ships, an aircraft carrier with 50 warplanes and 10,000 sailors and submarines. The aim of U.S. military planners was reportedly "to police Iran." Clinton's action in resorting to the old fashioned tactics of his predecessors was seen by observers in London reflecting the failure of his "ban and bawl" policy used as a central tenet against any country disagreeing with Washington's hegemony.

The GUARDIAN suggested that it also showed the deep personal hostility of the U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, who had led negotiations during the American Embassy crisis in Tehran during 1979 and 1980. Plans to re-activate the Fifth Fleet in the Persian Gulf was first reported in May by JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY, but which said at the time, it would have no permanently assigned ships nor require additional forces and would not change deployment patterns.

Velayati Views Stances on Embargo, Terrorism

AU0407142695 Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 4 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by "Wok" on interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, "early in July:" "Tehran Self-Confident Despite U.S. Embargo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The trade embargo that Washington has imposed on Iran apparently has hardly made an impression on Iran's policy. Tehran has obviously been able to replace U.S. customers who have stayed away. Tehran does not seem to be worried by its isolation in the Middle East peace process, even if Syria, as Iran's partner of long standing, were to come closer to Israel. Tehran's central importance in the region is not in jeopardy, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati stresses in an interview.

Unlike two years ago, when the Iranian foreign minister who took part in an economic forum in Crans-Montana made an overtired and tense impression, Velayati received his interlocutors at the same place this year in excellent condition and in a good mood. It seems the trade embargo that the United States imposed against Tehran late in March has had a stimulating effect on the foreign minister.

Rejection of the Middle East Peace Process

Velayati stressed that the negotiations currently being held in Washington between high-ranking Syrian and Israeli delegations did not worry Iran. That Syrian Foreign Minister Charea and Syrian Vice President Khaddam were in Tehran for consultations shortly before these talks started was mere routine, he said. Despite close bilateral relations between Tehran and Damascus, Syria pursued an independent foreign policy. His position on Israel was unchanged. Regarding "national resistance in Lebanon," as the Hizballah fighters are called in Iran, there were no essential differences between the two governments. This was a struggle for the liberation of occupied territory. Does this also mean in the Iranian view that Hizballah's military operations should be confined to Lebanese soil and that the border of Israel, which the official Iranian terminology describes as a Zionist entity, is thereby indirectly recognized? Velayati says yes, but refuses to elaborate.

The foreign minister says that Iran's offside position in the Middle East peace process does not by any means lead to its isolation in the region. He says that his country's importance as a strategic partner in the Persian Gulf, in Caucasus, and in Central Asia has increased recently. Until now, the Middle East peace process was mainly determined by Israel's interests. Iran had no reason therefore to take part in it in any way, Velayati said. However, the United States as Israel's strongest ally is watching Iran's intransigence with growing suspicion. Tensions between Washington and Tehran have increased since the tightening of the embargo. On the occasion of the largest military maneuvers in Iran since the end of the first Gulf war, Mohsen Rezai, the commander of the Pasdaran (revolutionary guards), said that a conflict with the United States was unavoidable. These maneuvers were in preparation for a war, he said. Will the next armed conflict in the region take place between Tehran's and Washington's troops? There is absolutely no reason for concern, says Velayati reassuringly, no matter what Rezai has said.

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The foreign minister also says the naval maneuvers in May that West experts have characterized as offensive, because airborne troops, missiles, and submarines were jointly involved, were mere routine exercises. Velayati declined to deny or confirm U.S. reports that during his visit to China this spring he received missile control systems to increase the precision of Iranian Scuds. Nor was he ready to comment on the possible purchase of a third Russian submarine of the Kilo-class. He said there was a general tendency in the West to see the Iranian arms arsenal in absolutely illusory dimensions. Yet much smaller countries such as the Gulf emirates or Switzerland had a much more sophisticated armament than Iran, without too many questions being asked.

It is known that owing to the low oil price that has resulted in low earnings, Tehran cannot afford high expenses in its arms buildup. Sources close to the foreign minister said, however, that it has been very easy to replace U.S. customers who stayed away since the trade embargo imposed by Washington became effective. As in the past, the country produced approximately 3.6 million barrels of oil per day, with a capacity of 4.2 million barrels, they said. Asian countries like South Korea and Japan had increased their purchases ever since U.S. firms stayed away. Nor did the withdrawal, ordered by Washington, of the Conoco concern from the project agreed upon to exploit new offshore oil deposits in the Gulf represent a serious setback for Iran. Reportedly, negotiations on the same project with the French company Total will be completed soon.

Support For Terrorists

One of Washington's main reproaches to Tehran is that the Iranian Government supports radical Islamist movements throughout the world and therefore indirectly bears part of the responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks. Even though there is no recent solid evidence for such a claim, it is considered certain that private Iranian foundations support Islamist movements. For this reason, the Saudi Government, which is confronted with the same phenomenon, has subjected the activities of all private foundations to strict control. Iran has absolutely no reason to follow the Saudi example, says Velayati. The Iranian Government does not see a reason to deny Lebanese resistance its support. This fight was aimed against an occupation regime and was therefore legitimate.

Isn't the reproach rather that Iran supports groups whose terrorist activities have claimed innocent people's lives? Velayati rejected such accusations categorically, adding maliciously that his government controlled the work of private foundations much better than the Saudi royalties were able to do in their own country.

Have increased tensions between the United States and Iran led to a relaxation of tensions between Tehran and Baghdad? It transpired several days ago that the Hawr al-Huweise camp in southwestern Iran, a place of refuge for the Shi'ite insurgents who have fled from southern Iraq, was moved to the east. According to a report from Iraq, the camps, tolerated by Baghdad, of the Iranian resistance movement of the people's Mujahidin have been moved far to the west to the Jordanian border. Velayati confirmed indirectly that these are initial confidence-building measures and the dialogue with Saddam's regime has been resumed. He said what mattered was that all the points of UN Resolution 598 be fulfilled, so as to definitely close the chapter of the Iraqi-Iranian war. One of the central unsolved problems was the repatriation of all prisoners of war. Baghdad accuses Iran of still holding approximately 20,000 prisoners of war and claims that for its part, it has released all Iranians. Tehran disputes this. The Iranian UN envoy in Geneva, who is also present, stresses that a reopening of the delegation of the International Red Cross Committee is conceivable. However, the committee must at first present a strategy on how the problem of the Iranians missing in Iraq could be solved.

No Concessions in the Case of Rushdie

Whereas the United States drives Iran increasingly into the role of a devilish power, Europe is much less reserved toward Tehran. However, there is agreement on the case of the writer Salman Rushdie. The death threat and denunciation of this unorthodox author is generally considered as proof of the medieval and totalitarian way of thinking of the ruling religious people in Iran. In the European view, it would therefore be highly welcome if the regime in Tehran distanced itself from the verdict against Rushdie, which had originally been passed by Ayatollah Khomeyni. Earlier this year, France suggested to the Iranian Government that it give the written confirmation that nothing would happen to the persecuted author in any of the European Union member states. Velayati confirmed that this suggestion had been examined by the government. There was, however, no reason to change the existing position. He said the Iranian president had repeatedly stressed officially that neither the government nor anyone else from Iran would persecute Rushdie. There was no reason to confirm this statement in writing. The times of colonialism were over. In relations between countries, mutual respect was the dictate of the moment now, Velayati said.

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IAEA Chief Praises Country's 'Sincere Cooperation'

LD0407110995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], has voiced gratitude for Iran's sincere cooperation with that organization and dismissed the United States' claim that Iran is trying to acquire atomic weapons.

Blix, who is paying an official visit to Russia, stressed in an interview with reporters in Moscow yesterday: Iran is one of the countries that have signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and it has adhered to all its international commitments. He added: There has not been the slightest obstruction so far from Iran preventing experts from the IAEA from familiarizing themselves with its atomic installations. He noted that the clamour that has been made about nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia has more to do with political matters.

Spokesman on Norway, Egypt-Sudan, Kurd Issues

LD0407204595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following recent reports of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry's proposal to dispatch that country's ambassador to Tehran in the near future to raise the level of ties between the two countries, our Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mr. Mohammadi said: In the autumn of 1373 [1994], since Norway had not observed mutual respect in our ties, and by supporting those who had insulted Islamic sanctities had become a center of insults to Islamic values and support for Rushdie, we recalled our ambassador, lowered the level of diplomatic ties, and severed any form of economic cooperation with that country. Therefore, from the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the level of diplomatic ties has been lowered for over six months.

In reply to our correspondent's question about reports of tension on the Egyptian-Sudanese border, in the Halaib region, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We hope the two Muslim and neighboring countries will solve their differences through talks, with sincerity and mutual respect and self-restraint, and not by resorting to force. For, under the present conditions when America puts pressure on progressive countries in the Islamic world, by various means, this dispute would only benefit the enemies of Islam; we do not consider it beneficial to Islamic countries and the interests of Muslim nations. We must not allow the Zionist regime to take advantage of such disputes between Islamic countries.

On Iraq's expression of concern about Kurdish groups travelling to Iran and regarding this activity as a violation of its sovereignty, he said: So long as Iraq does not have the power to rule in the north, the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be a mere witness to the negative consequences of conflict in that area.

He added: Iran seeks peace and stability on its borders, and therefore constantly encourages the Kurdish groups to end the clashes. To that end, the two main northern Iraqi parties agreed to their representatives travelling to Iran and to end the clashes, which the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed.

Joint Communique on Turkmenistan Leader's Visit

LD0407205995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of the visit by [Turkmenistan] President Niyazov and his entourage, a joint communique was released by the presidents of the two countries.

In the communique, referring to the growing role of regional cooperation in international relations, the two sides stress the importance of continuing their fruitful and extensive cooperation, within the framework of tripartite cooperation, cooperation between Caspian Sea littoral states, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The communique also states: At talks regarding Caspian Sea issues, Iran and Turkmenistan refer to the Caspian Sea as a unique waterway. Since utilizing the resources on the seabed would not be possible unilaterally and without setting up a legal system [rezhim-e hoquqi], the two presidents believe that the Caspian Sea littoral states should continue their talks until a complete legal system is achieved. With common views on peace and cooperation on the Caspian Sea, Iran and Turkmenistan believe that the setting up of the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Organization could help expand cooperation in that sea.

Referring to the talks between the presidents of the two countries about peace and stability in Central Asia, the communique states: The two countries consider diplomatic talks as the only way to achieve peace. Turkmenistan thanks the Islamic Republic of Iran for its active role in resolving those crises. Iran for its part supports Turkmenistan's policy of neutrality and considers it in the interests of that country's people and peace in the region.

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Agent Views Infiltration of 'Terrorist' Organization

LD0507091895 Tehran IRNA in English 0619 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA — One of Iranian intelligence agent commissioned to infiltrate into the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), Mohammad Hassani said here today the terrorist group had assigned him with three other people to explode oil pipeline in Iranian southern city of Abadan.

He said, "We were four people assigned to sabotage Iranian oil pipeline in Abadan, we were sent from Iraqi city of Basrah to carry out the operation, we were divided into two teams. I killed my accomplice, Habib Shati but, the second team including Ramezan Zaree and Ali Kouhneshin had managed to explode one pipeline and escape before I could track them down, he said. "So the team in which I membered did not carry out the explosion, but, the MKO radio broadcast an explosion sound adding that it was the bomb ignited by my team."

In March 1993, the terrorist MKO dispatched several teams to Iran to lay mines in the roads and made an assaualt upon a telecommunications office in western Iran and martyred two civilian workers of the office. They announced later that the office was busy jamming the MKO's transmissions.

In April 1993, they decided to assign several other teams to Iran, he said. Hassani said the objective behind despatching of the teams was deceiving the western countries into believing the terrorist MKO's strength inside Iran and motivate those lacking hope for the future. He said the terrorist MKO magnifies the extent of its terrorist operations to attract the attention of the western countries.

On the goal of his infiltration into the terrorist MKO, he said his infiltration was aimed to prevent a wide range of bombing the MKO had planned to do so. He said, "I had not been in touch with the terrorist MKO and not a supporter for the grouplet either. I signalled my willingness to join the MKO to Masoumeh Ardikhani (Nasrin) who was in touch with me. She told me that I should go Turkey. In Turkey members of the political headquarters Behjat and Mina were my superiors. They gave me a forged passport and forwarded me to Iraq through Zakho border post. I was placed at a military base named Sardar."

The terrorist MKO carrying the orders of the Iraqis had launched a number of terrorist attacks to show their presence inside the country, he said. "We used to frequent the military base with civilian clothes and underwent training by Iraqi officers", he said.

Asked about the terrorist MKO's exchange of letters with some U.S. officials and how the ringleaders explain to their supporters their routine practice being contrary to the former slogans, he said the ringleaders try hard to keep the members of the grouplet away from the former slogans and say we want to swindle the Americans and impose ourselves upon them. On the propaganda efforts of the terrorist MKO, he said the ringleaders are used to fooling certain foreign reporters as a known practice in their every day performance.

Pakistan

Embassy in U.S. Says Missile Report 'Baseless'

BK0407054195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington — The Embassy of Pakistan categorically rejects the baseless allegations made in the report by R Jeffrey Smith and David B Ottaway in the Washington Post of July 3, 1995, that Pakistan has acquired M-11 missiles from China. It is intriguing that the position of the Pakistan Embassy on this issue, sought by and given to the Washinton Post on June 30, finds no mention in the report.

Pakistan has repeatedly maintained that it has not acquired any missiles that violate the MTCR [Missle Technology Control Regime]. In fact Pakistan supports the creation of a zero missile zone in South Asia on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis, while also endorsing the US South Asia Missile Control Inititiative.

It is regrettable that so-called intelligence sources have levelled false accusations against Pakistan. This disinformation is clearly at variance with the position of the US administration on this issue.

Lobbies Seen Trying To 'Wreck' U.S. Ties

BK0507051595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Pakistan while terming the allegation of receiving M-11 missiles from China as "mala fide and motivated" said here Tuesday [4 July] that a combination of lobbies are operating to "wreck the growing relationship between Pakistan and the United States. [sentence as published]

Whenever there is an increasing change in US Congress in favour of Pakistan, efforts are being made by a combination of lobbies to undermine it, Foreign Office sources told APP here yesterday.

The WASHINGTON POST had carried a report Monday claiming that China had sold medium range M-11

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missiles to Pakistan, a charge always rejected by Pakistan. Foreign Office sources said that Missile Technology Control Regime stipulated that the reach of the misiles should not be more than 300 km while pay load should not be more than 500 kilogram. This meant that missiles beyond this limit could not be exported.

Pressler Move Viewed 'Short' of Clinton Promise

BK0307075795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Jul 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was in a different context that the legendary black American leader Malcolm X had said that it is no progress to pull the knife three inches out of somebody's back after having stuck it in fourteen inches. But this applies to the solution that Senator Larry Pressler, the architect of the infamous Pressler Amendment, has suggested to the contentious issue of the repayment of the money Pakistan has paid to the United States for its F-16s.

He has proposed a partial compensation to Pakistan, that has been denied the delivery of the planes because of the continued application of the Pressler Amendment, by selling the planes to a third party, Taiwan and the Philippines. He has not favoured full compensation, i.e. all the money that would come from the sale to the third parties should not be paid to Pakistan. As for the delivery of the planes as an option to resolve the issue, Mr Pressler remains committed to his previous stance that this is against the interests of the US and therefore should be exercised.

It seems that Mr Pressler and those who support his so-called initiative are missing the fundamental point about the F-16 issue. The nub of the problem is not that Pakistan has to be partially compensated; it is that Pakistan has to be given what is its by right: either the planes or the money that it has paid for them. Moreover F-16s are part of the purchase Pakistan had made and paid for; there is other military equipment as well that it had spent its cash on but could not get because of the Pressler hurdle. The partial compensation proposal does not take this aspect in view and fails to mention the fate of the money that the US government owes to Pakistan for other military equipment sales.

Also, the proposal falls far short of what President Bill Clinton had publicly promised to Benazir Bhutto during her recent trip to the US. There he gave an understanding that his administration would try its best to resolve the issue in all its dimensions. The half-way house that Mr Pressler is now suggesting neither makes up for the wrongs that Pakistan has been subjected to in the past, nor does it come even near to fulfilling the expectations that the Pakistani public has after president Clinton's reassuring remarks. Mr Pressler should know at least this much that for wounds to heal, the knife of the Pressler Amendment will have to be first fully taken out of the back of Pak-US ties. And the first step towards that end is to either return Pakistan's equipment, the F-16s included, or the money that it has paid for it. All of it.

Study Conducted for More Nuclear Power Plants

BK2806094695 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 28 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission reportedly disclosed in his speech the other day that the Commission was conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of more nuclear-based power plants in Pakistan in addition to KANUPP [Karachi Nuclear Power Project] at Karachi which is operating since 1972 and a 300 megawatt nuclear power plant at Chashma which is under construction with the assistance of China. He further reportedly emphasised the need for diversification in the country's energy resources namely hydel, thermal and nuclear so that a balance could be struck with a view to avoiding heavier dependence on a single source. There can be no two opinions on this approach for making the country surplus in energy generation/ supplies in the coming years.

It may be pointed that under the existing policy thrust centering round invitation to foreign investors for setting up thermal-based power plants in Pakistan, attention towards the important source of a nuclear power, seems to have been relegated to the background. Dr Ishfaq Ahmed's reference to the fact that nuclear power plants continue to have a feasible scope for this country, would be seen as a timely reminder lest we abandon the task of exploring this avenue as an alternative source of commercial energy.

Dr Ishfaq Ahmed's emphasis that the country must develop a diversified mix for energy production from hydel, thermal and nuclear sources, cannot but be endorsed.

It may be recalled that the Chinese-assisted nuclear power plant with a capacity of 300 megawatt was sought by this country after France's failure to fulfill its commitment for the supply of a 900 megawatt nuclear power plant. The issue was also raised by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, during her official visit to France and in her meeting with the French President Francois Mitterrand in November 1994. But the matter continues to be dormant presumably due to Western Powers' campaign against proliferation of nuclear energy producing capacity in the developing countries. However, de-

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spite this difficulty, we should not altogether write off the prospects of nuclear power. After all, the country was successful in obtaining a nuclear power plant from China. The plant's construction is reported to be moving apace in accordance with the schedule and it is expected to be put on stream in 1998. This will indeed be a valuable addition to Pakistan's energy sector.

According to available information, as many as 430 nuclear power plants are in operation in 23 countries' of the world out of which 110 plants are located in the United States and the remaining are in operation in France, Canada, Japan and Russia.

The generation of nuclear power is stated to be by far the cheapest in per unit cost and therefore, it suits more to the developing countries which are beset with rising energy cost in their efforts to speed up industrialisation and harness agricultural wealth. Nuclear research in Pakistan has contributed significantly to Pakistan's efforts to develop high-yielding and pest resistant cotton seeds. Additionally, about nine atomic energy medical centres are in operation which have strengthened the process of modernisation in methodology in medical spheres. Thus, Pakistan has been engaged in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear research.

Pakistan's all-out efforts to speedily increase power generation capacity by setting up oil-based plants, it appears, would substantially tilt the balance in favour of oil consuming plants as compared to the hydel source. The rapid increase in the import of oil for consumption in these plants may lead to balance of payments difficulties besides environmental problems. In view of this, besides giving due attention to develop energy resources in the hydel sector, the need to investigate prospects of establishing nuclear power plants can hardly be over-emphasised.

Australian Held for Passing Israel Nuclear Secrets

BK0407065895 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, July 3 — The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested a Pakistani-born, Australian computer scientist on suspicion of passing on information about Pakistan's nuclear programme to Israel.

Top government sources confided to The Muslim that the suspect, Dr Mubashar, who was picked up by sensitive agencies in first week of June in Islamabad had reportedly installed computers along with its programming at a number of sensitive places in the last few years. He along with his Australian wife Mrs Sandra Ahmed, who was taking piano lessons, allegedly passed on vital informations about Pakistan's nuclear facilities to the agents of Mosad — an Israeli intelligence agency.

Sources said Dr Mubashar who runs a computer business under the name of "Media Link" in Bluea Area and had been supplying computers and its related equipment to a number of sensitive institutions was put under observation about six months back. In the last week of May three employees of Media Link were picked up by a sensitive agency. In the first week of June, Dr Mubashar was taken into custody, while he was on his way back from airport to Islamabad.

Sources said during interrogation Dr Mubashar suffered a minor heart attack after which he was shifted to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) under a fake name. Later he was handed over to FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] for further investigations.

Mrs Sandra Ahmed wife of Dr Mubashar, however, approached the Australian High Commission on June 12 and asked them to help find her husband. Interestingly, Mrs Sandra Ahmed informed the Australian High Commission that her husband was arrested on June 11 whereas Dr Mubashar was picked up by sensitive agencies at least eight days before.

Sources said the Australian High Commission immediately contacted the Pakistan Foreign Office and requested detailed information about the whereabouts and charges levelled against Dr Mubashar.

Mr Barry-Brown, First Secretary, Consular and Administration, Australian High Commission, when contacted confirmed that Mrs Sandra Ahmed had approached the High Commission and sought assistance in finding her husband.

Barry Brown said "our interest is to know the whereabouts of the missing or arrested Australian citizen and ensure that he gets a fair treatment and an equal opportunity to plead his case before a court of law".

Mr Brown, however, showed unawareness about the charges levelled against the suspect and said Mrs Sandar Ahmed had claimed "I have no idea why my husband was arrested; I can't find him, can you help me".

Mr Brown said according to Mrs Sandra Ahmed the other family members of Mr Mubashar have already lodged an FIR [first information report] about the disappearance of the accused.

FIA sources when contacted confirmed that Dr Mubashar was arrested on charges of passing official secrets to some foreign country. However, they refused to provide further details. FIA sources also said that Mr Mubashar has been sent to jail on a judicial remand.

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Afghanistan Protests Sardar Wali Visit

BK0307132395 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 3 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Mohammad Zahid]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — President Rabbani's government has lodged a strong protest with the Pak embassy in Kabul against what it said was foreign minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's "irresponsible" statement against Afghanistan and Sardar Wali's presence in Pakistan. "Such moves on the part of Islamabad can sour relations between the two neighbourly countries", said a foreign ministry official in Kabul.

According to radio Kabul President Rabbani's government strongly denied Sardar Asif's statement in which he had said that India and Russia were providing assistance to the Afghan government.

Afghan sources in Peshawar said that Afghan foreign ministry on Saturday [1 July] lodged a protest in this regard with Pak embassy in Kabul.

It may be recalled that Sardar Asif had recently said that both India and Russia were actively involved in Kabul. He even said that during his forth-coming visit to Kabul he was to raise this issue with President Rabbani. Asif was scheduled to fly to Kabul on June 24. However, at the eleventh hour he cancelled his visit. Asif indicated that he would now visit Kabul by the end of this month. However, the latest development has again put his plans in doldrums.

Afghan embassy in Islamabad has also lodged an official protest with the foreign ministry against Sardar Asif's remarks and the presence of Sardar Wali in Pakistan. One report said that Sulaiman Shah, first secretary in Afghan embassy in Islamabad on Sunday handed over a copy of Afghan foreign ministry's protest letter to Pakistan's foreign ministry.

However, when a senior diplomat in the Afghan embassy in Islamabad was contacted by phone, he said that the protest letter would be handed over to Pakistan's foreign ministry officials today (Monday). Text of the protest letter would also be issued to the press today he said.

However, he said that the protest by Kabul was against Sardar Asif's "baseless" allegation regarding Indian and Russian involvement in Kabul and Sardar Wali's current visit to Pakistan. "Islamabad is further complicating Afghan peace prospects by bringing Sardar Wali to Pakistan", he said and added that it was an open interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Sardar Wali he said should come to Kabul to help restore peace in Afghanistan.

Pakistan, he said, should refrain from involving it self in such activities because it would harm relations between the two countries.

The protest against Sardar Wali's visit to Pakistan is the first of its kind from Afghan leaders since his arrival in Islamabad last Thursday. So far all the Afghan opposition leaders have welcomed Sardar Wali's peace efforts for the war-torn Afghanistan. Sharp criticism from Rabbani government has once against cost doubts over the efforts of Sardar Wali to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Afghan observers in Peshawar say that the latest manoeuvre on the part of Rabbani government was not only a serious blow to Sardar Wali's peace mission but it had also taken the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan to a dangerous low.

Meanwhile, APP said that Sardar Asif would soon visit Afghanistan to promote understanding among all Afghan leaders to pave way for the political settlement of the Afghan crisis.

"We can only act as a catalyst" for restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Basically it was up to Afghans themselves to settle their problems, foreign office spokesman said Sunday.

Commenting on the current visit of Gen Abdul Wali Khan, son-in- law of former Afghan monarch, he said all sorts of Afghan leaders had been coming to Pakistan and had sought shelter here.

The spokesman saw no reason for objecting to the presence of Gen. Abdul Wali because all kinds of Afghan leaders had been passing through Pakistan. "If Wali had come to do something about peace in Afghanistan, Pakistan would welcome it as it had also extended full support to UN special envoy's efforts to bring peace in Afghanistan", he added.

Meanwhile, latest reports said that Sardar Asif Sunday left for London accompanied by Senator Malik Mohammad Qasim. Asif is expected to address a Kashmir rally on 4th of July. The rally is being organised as a part of mass Kashmir awareness campaign by George Galloway, a British member of parliament.

Wali Predicts 'Big Change' in Afghanistan

BK0307143995 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Mujtaba Akhtar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — It is believed that the fast deteriorating Afghan situation will undergo some drastic changes following the visit of former

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Afghan monarch Zahir Shah envoy's visit to Pakistan. The special envoy Abdul Wali Khan's US-sponsored visit has plunged the Afghan leaders into deep shock and dejection.

Wali after his detailed meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto [BB] predicted big change in Afghanistan. He described his meeting with BB very encouraging. Peace, he said would soon return to Afghanistan.

Afghan leaders who consider Wali's arrival a threat, have harshly reacted over the official protocol given to him by Islamabad.

His visit would prove fatal to Afghan rule, heralding drastic changes in the region, it is assessed.

Wali, whom US wanted to put in Afghanistan to eliminate Islamic militancy is a moderate figure and son-in-law of former King Zahir. He enjoys respect and love among the Afghan people.

Wali during is stay in Islamabad was given warm welcome by Afghans living in Pakistan who turned up to greet him.

Pakistan government did not oppose Wali's plan to fight for a change in Afghanistan.

Diplomatic observers here attach great importance to Wali's visit. "Change in Afghanistan is round the corner", commented a senior diplomat adding removal of Islamic fundamentalists from the political scene was an old US dream.

Brushing aside Afghan leaders' protest over the stage hospitality which Wali enjoyed as he flew into Islamabad, a senior official of Pakistan Foreign Office said Wali was given protocol because he had an interview with the Prime Minister Bhutto.

He did not comment when asked about prospects of a change in Afghanistan.

PPI adds: President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari Sunday said Pakistan desires early and amicable peace in the war ravaged Afghanistan. He was talking to Gen Abdul Wali, special emissary and son in-law of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, who called on him here at Aiwan e Sadr.

The president said Pakistan supports the UN peace initiatives to end fighting and restore normalcy in Afghanistan.

Reciprocating President's desire for peace in Afghanistan, Gen Abdul Wali Khan said he was visiting Islamabad to explore and promote the possibilities of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary Najamuddin Shaikh and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Gen Abdul Wali, it may be pointed out is here as the guest of the government.

According to the Foreign Office, he had contacted Pakistan mission in Rome and requested for visa for going to Pakistan to meet his friends and officials.

During his stay in Pakistan, the envoy to former King Zahir Shah is expected to visit Quetta and Peshawar to meet different political leaders, tribal leaders and Afghan people settled in Pakistan.

Gen Abdul Wali Khan has already held meetings with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Foreign Secretary Najamuddin Shaikh.

Federal Cabinet Approves New Trade Policy

BK0407030095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Cabinet has approved the trade policy for 1995-96, it is being announced this evening. The cabinet, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair, approved estimates of the foreign exchange budget for the financial year 1995-96 and the allocation for public sector agencies and government departments. The estimates anticipate an increase in exports by 16 percent during 1995-96, while imports are expected to increase by 9 percent. According to an official press release, the increase shows a satisfactory, balanced trade which has shown buoyancy in export performance, restrained import expenditures, and continued rising trend in the flow of remittances from overseas Pakistanis.

The cabinet reviewed the position of recovery of outstanding dues of telephones, electricity, and gas charges. It was also briefed about the recovery of outstanding loans from banks and divisional financial institutions. The cabinet was also briefed about the collection of arrears by Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation [PTC]. The cabinet was informed that during the month of May alone, 156 million rupees were recovered by PTC. The same has been the trend in the collection of arrears by Sui Northern Gas Company. Up to the middle of June, it collected 436 million rupees. Sui Southern Company has recovered 48 million rupees and WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] has managed to recover 7,159 million rupees. Commercial banks and divisional financial institutions recovered more than 12 billion rupees up to 15 June last. The cabinet also decided to withdraw excise duty on lawyers and doctors in view of the public demand.

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Later, briefing the newsmen about the decisions of the cabinet, the federal secretary for information and broadcasting, Haji Mohammad Akram, said extra ex-servicemen are being recruited for the protection of railway trains in Karachi, with particular reference to the latest attempts of terrorism. He said these ex-servicemen, who will join the Railway Police, will be charged to provide safety to railway trains and passengers.

Responding to numerous questions on the closure of six evening newspapers in Karachi, Haji Akram said the decision was taken by the provincial government to improve the law and order situation in Karachi.

PAF, Italy Sign Contract for Mirage III Upgrade

BK0407115095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, July 2 — After almost 18 months long negotiations and evaluations PAF [Pakistan Air Force] has finally signed a contract with Italy for the supply of 35 Grifo-M radar sets for the up-gradation of its Mirage IIIs. The deal follows a contract for supply and integration of 100 scaled-down Grifo's for Pakistan F-7 fighters also being up-graded at Kamra.

FIAR, the manufacturers of Grifo-M radar has started flight tests for the F-7 modification and will begin integration of 100 radar sets for PAF. The radar has been scaled down to meet the confined space requirements in the F-7's nose. Grifo-M has been exclusively designed and developed for Pakistan and it is believed that the PAF had already paid 30 per cent of total amount as research and development funds. But with the change in command of the force and new perceptions about the operational preparedness of the force two other radars were also included for evaluations. GEC-Marconi and CFS Thomson were two other tough competitors for PAF's prestigious contract.

Pakistan is currently engaged in the extensive up-gradation of its Mirage IIIs fleet with the help of a French SAGEM [Societe d'Applications Generals d'Electricite et de Mecanique]. This includes all those Mirages which were bought from Australia under the plan. Navigation and fire control systems of the aircraft are being up-graded while modifications are also being carried out in the entire electronic system including radar and weapon delivery system. Pakistan is also upgrading its Chinese made sixty F-7s with the Grifo-M radar.

According to well-informed defence sources Grifo-M is under serious consideration for the joint Chinese/ Pakistan Super-7 Fc-1 fighter project for which PAF has responsibility for selecting and supplying the radar and avionics systems.

The Grifo-M is an 1-Band fire control radar with ranger while- search, velocity search, track with scan, single target track situation awareness and air combat mode. It is similar to Grifo-F supplied to Singapore for its F-5 up-grade but uses a different flat plate antenna.

The FIAR company has been selected to supply radar for the Czech Air Force L-159 and will also bid for a Greek requirements to up-grade air force F-4s.

According to official sources Pakistan and China will sign the agreement for the joint production of Super-7 FC-1 fighter in December this year in Beijing. Both the countries plan to develop the fighter in 1997 for service around 2000.

The single-seat multi-role fighter, developed from the Super 7 programme, being designed and developed by Changed Aircraft Industrial Corp with assistance from Mikoyan of Russia. Cost will be a major driver for the programme and the aircraft is expected to be less than US $ 1.5 million per copy. Advanced stage discussions are reported between Pakistan and China for completing development and production of the aircraft with input from the Pakistan Aero- nautical complex. Pakistan will continue assembly following delivery of the first few complete aircraft from China. The programme extends cooperation rooted in the K-8 trainer programme.

According to official sources China started the F-7 FC-1 programme from scratch after the withdrawal of US support for the Super-7 programme in 1989. The Super-7 programme was itself derived from the Chengdu F-7. Discriminatory Pressler law and ban on the delivery of PAF's F-16s drew Pakistan and China closer to undertake the programme of Super-7 FC-1. "Since then we started the new programme — it's a whole new aircraft and the performance is much improved" says a Chinese expert engaged in the co-production.

The aircraft is a single-engine, single-seat, multi=role design fitted with seven weapon stations in roughly the same class as the US F-16. The engine would be a Russian-RD-93 version, a version of the Klimov rd-33 fitted to the Mikoyan MiG-29.

Since PAF is expected to be the prime customer of Super-7 FC-1 fighter it will specify the radar, avionics and weapon. There is a tough competition to provide the sub-systems and GEC-Marconi and FIAR are being named as the contenders for the radar. Short and long-range missiles will be fitted, along with a 23 mm gun. Pakistan is currently reported to be at the advance stages of developing a missile system to be fitted on these fighters.

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Security Wraps Up Karachi Situation, Casualties

BK0407160295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five people, including a woman, were killed, and seven, including five police constables, were injured as a result of shootings by unidentified persons in different areas of Karachi today. According to police sources, these shooting incidents occurred in the jurisdictions of Nazimabad, Malir City, Saeedabad, Jamshed Quarters, Gulbahar, Korangi, and Gordon police stations.

Meanwhile, the situation in Orangi Township has improved as a result of Rangers' operations against terrorists who have been holding the residents of the area hostage. The Rangers have been withdrawn, and basic amenities are being restored in the area.

One more active worker of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group, Sayeeduddin alias Cheetah of Liaqatabad, who is involved in the murder of more than 20 people, including police officials, confessed his crimes in front of newsmen in Islamabad today. He told journalists that he was a member of Unit No. 165 under the charge of a person called Baba who used to receive instructions from Altaf Hussain over mobile telephone for carrying out criminal and terrorist activities. He mentioned seven incidents of his crime and confessed that 10 people killed in the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation were the victims of his group. He also confessed that the incidents of murder and robbery in the area behind the supermarket in Karachi were carried out by his group, in which he was himself involved. He said that he had attacked a mobile police party with rocket launchers and that the strikes in Karachi were observed at the instructions of Altaf Hussain. He also gave details of other crimes. Answering questions, Sayeedudddin alias Cheetah told the journalists that he was giving that statement at the call of his conscience. He said he understands that Altaf Hussain is responsible for all these crimes. He called upon his associates belonging to the Altaf Group to shun terrorism, which will not benefit them in any way.

Karachi Newspaper Ban Lifted; Strike Called Off

BK0507053795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sindh government has lifted a ban on five Urdu evening papers and an Urdu morning paper with immediate effect.

In response to the government's decision, newspaper owners have withdrawn their decision to hold a one-day strike in the newspaper industry today. The decision was taken at the meeting of the Joint Action Committee of newspaper editors and journalists with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah in Karachi last night.

The chief minister, while announcing the decision to lift the ban on these newspapers, said that his government is committed to the freedom of press as contained in the manifesto of the Pakistan People's Party. He said the government was forced to take the extreme measure of the ban on the six newspapers because the situation in Karachi requires that conditions to promote peace and amity must be fully supported.

Speaking on behalf of the Joint Action Committee, Mazhar Abbas, convener of the committee, Mr. Mazhar Abbas, submitted that the newspapers were equally pledged to serve the national interests. Mustafa Saddiq, president of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, has welcomed the government's decision to lift the ban.

Sri Lanka

Summary of Clashes With LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK0507103495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan naval troops completely destroyed three terrorist boats northeast of Velvettiturai early today. In the confrontation a sailor was injured. A news release from the operational headquarters of the Ministry of defense says that a naval craft patrolling in Velvettiturai yesterday engaged a terrorist boat with small arms. The boat was completely destroyed, and all occupants were killed.

In an incident in (Chilawastai) in the Mullaitivu district, security forces observed terrorists movement and engaged them with small arms and killed two terrorists yesterday. Several clashes have been reported between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and security in Kilinochchio and Batticaloa districts. Troops confronted a group of terrorists in the north of (Uttaiyarturai) in the Kilinochci district. As a result one officer was killed and one soldier was injured. There was another incident at Vandaramoolai in the batticaloa district. Four terrorists hijacked a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus running from Batticaloa to Kalawanchikudy, forcing all passangers to get down. They ordered the driver and the conductor to proceed to Kaluwankerni. While proceeding, the terrorists fired at troops who were manning a checkpoint on the road. According to the operational headquarters of the Defense ministry, the troops retaliated with small arms fire. Later, the terrorists abandoned the bus and the driver and the conductor fled. Meanwhile, at Kopagalai in the Batticaloa district, the security forces confronted a group of terrorists. The Defense

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Ministry said that in this incident eight soldiers were killed and three were wounded. Two injured soldiers have been admitted to the Kandy hospital, according to the Kandy police.

Parents in Jaffna have launched a fast near the LTTE political headquarters opposing conscription of school children. According to sources from the North, they are demanding that their children be returned. The parents questioned why LTTE leaders, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, Stanislaus Anthony and Dr. (Dwara), are not recruited to fight in the war. The LTTE has threatened to kill the parents if they do not give up their fast. However, the sources point out that this effort has been unsuccessful. School children arriving in the Jaffna town have started disappearing, but the LTTE is silent when asked asked about the disappearances. These parents launched a campaign against the LTTE on the 27th of last month near the Jaffna university in the (Tinawali) junction requesting the return of their children. Meanwhile, Prabhakaran has deployed only close relative for his personal security due to certain cadres and peaceloving people in the north opposing some of his actions.

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